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Metro Edition

Vol., 17, No. 27

Serving New Jersey's African-American communities since 1983

April 12 - April 18, 2000

50 cents

Himmelstein has high hopes for school board elections

By Chris Sykes
Staff Writer

NEWARK — Herbert Himmelstein moved his family of seven to Newark from the Bronx, N.Y., almost a year-and-a-half ago in search of a better life. He works for a law firm in New York City, and, according to him, he's found that here.

Himmelstein ranks education highly on his list of priorities. It says something that his children are enrolled in Newark's public schools: kids are learning.

"Being a father of seven, everything about education is important to me, and I'm satisfied at the moment that teaching and learning is going on in the public schools," he said. "Although we've had some problems with bullies, I can honestly say I am satisfied."

Himmelstein said this year will be the first time he's ever participated in a Newark school board election, and he is looking forward to it. What he didn't

see HIMMELSTEIN page A8

Police plan may turn Orange 'over to crime, drugs and lawlessness'

Staff Writer

ORANGE — A member of the Orange City Council recently said he is concerned that a move to reorganize the police department is going "to turn this town over to crime, drugs and lawlessness."

North Ward Councilman Donald Page reportedly stormed out of an executive session council meeting on April 4 when Cheryl Fuller, the city's Business Administrator, said she, and not Police Director Don Wactor, would address any concerns about impending changes in the police department.

Based on an unsigned letter he received from an anonymous, but "reliable," source, Page said he believes the city plans to eliminate the department's three-member vice squad, which is something he is not in favor of. More to the point, he is also upset at the apparently clandestine manner in which the planning of the alleged reorganization was conducted.

"I was given a copy of a letter written to one of the police chiefs from a reliable source," Page said. They were planning to do this without even coming to us on the council. Right now they're in denial, when in fact it did take place. The police chief is saying this move is unplanned, but it was, and this memo proves it."

Page said another problem is Fuller. He said if she is going to do all the talking for the director of the police department, then why does the city need a director?

"This is bad government," he said. "We don't need someone else to be director."

At press time neither Fuller nor Wactor could be reached for comment on Page's remarks. The vice squad is responsible for drug, prostitution, and undercover investigations. Page said the unit will be replaced with a neighborhood stabilization unit as of April 9, and in his opinion that is not enough.

"We have major drug, prostitution, and other problems; they're dealing drugs near the mayor's house," he said. "We have all of the vices that require a vice squad, and to get rid of a vice squad is not the thing to do."

see ORANGE POLICE page A8



CITY NEWS

Newark Public Library
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School elections vital in urban centers



TRENTON — Statewide, there are a total of 2,217 candidates vying for 1,637 school board seats in this year's school election on April 18, according to statistics released by the New Jersey School Boards Association.

In addition, the proportion of candidates to available seats is slightly higher than last year. In 1999, a total of 2,164 candidates filled nominating petitions for 1,686 local board of education positions.

School board elections will take place in 556 of the state's 602 local school districts. In addition, voters in 555 school districts will have the opportunity to approve or reject proposed budgets for the 2000-01 school

year. NJSBA President Charles V. Reilly recently commented on the significance of the state's annual school election. He said as of the 1997-98 school year there were 1,240,920 students enrolled in the state's public schools, and that number has likely grown significantly since then.

"The local board of education is responsible to the community for ensuring that students have adequate facilities, curriculum and teaching staff," he said. "The candidates that voters select to serve on their local school boards will help save the education provided to our children."

Local school boards set the policies

on the curriculum and facilities, negotiate employee contracts, approve the hiring of educators and other staff, and oversee school district budgets. In addition, local school budgets are also voted on during school board elections.

School budgets are important because they represent the projected total expense of operating a district from one year to another. The budgets encompass teachers' salaries, the cost of maintaining or adding courses and curriculum, facilities maintenance and upkeep, and a variety of other costs and items.

Throughout the 90's, in general, school budgets have been approved by

see SCHOOL ELECTIONS page A8

2003: Newark



The aerial view of the proposed YankeeNets sports arena, located at Mulberry Street and McCarter Highway. Developers are anticipating the arena's opening to be in 2003.

Photo by Chris Sykes

By Chris Sykes
Staff Writer

NEWARK — YankeeNets, the joint identity of the New York Yankees baseball and New Jersey Nets basketball teams, has reached an agreement with Edison Parking that will make Newark's dream of a sports arena a reality.

We are pleased to learn of a memorandum of understanding between the Newark Sports and Entertainment Group and Edison Parking," said Mayor Sharpe Jaimes. "We also are pleased to learn of Newark Sports' adoption of the city's plan to pay fair market value to displaced homeowners, in concert with the development of new housing for them south of Green Street."

YankeeNets, the holding company that also has an agreement to buy the New Jersey Devils hockey team, said the new agreement calls for the construction of the arena on the site it prefers: between McCarter Highway and Mulberry Street, one block north of Market Street. As part of their compromise, Edison Parking has agreed to build and operate parking decks and office buildings in the arena zone.

YankeeNets has offered to pay a premium for the homes of a dozen residents who will be displaced by the arena's construction. They have also pledged to support residents' efforts to rebuild in the same neighborhood.

The plans now have to go before the city's Planning Board to be approved. From there they will be voted on by the City Council and the contract award process for construction will begin.

"I would hope that we're looking at 2003 to open the arena," Jaimes said. "The year 2004 is a reality, but 2003 is our goal." Jaimes said Governor Christine Whitman has been

very cooperative throughout the entire process leading up to the deal between YankeeNets and Edison Parking, and he hopes she will continue.

"I have great faith the governor will do what has promised to do," he said. For her part, Whitman said she would finance signage, road improvements, and other infrastructure needs the city might require, but she will resist providing any more than the \$75 million YankeeNets has asked for. She also said since a sight has been chosen and locked in now, it's logical to expect that they will come up with real aid numbers for the state to consider.

The arena will become the new home for the Devils and the Nets, who now play at Continental Airlines Arena in East Rutherford. There were plans to also build a 30,000-seat soccer stadium in the arena area to accommodate the New York/New Jersey MetroStars of Major League Soccer, but those have been scrapped in the wake of the new agreement.

The outdoor stadium is now scheduled to be replaced by office buildings, a television studio and "community-driven development," like locally owned shops, restaurants, a skills training center and housing. However, Jaimes said that does not rule them out of the city.

"Whatever question of how to deal with the MetroStars will be how fast they say they are ready and willing to deal with the city of Newark," he said.

Nick Skiewiez, the MetroStars' general manager, said all of this is news to him. He said he was unaware of the specifics of the deal between YankeeNets and Edison Parking, but it does not necessarily involve his organization anyway. "Our position still holds," he said. "We are going to build a stadium and we would like to do it in Newark. We haven't had any

conversation with the city of Newark about it."

Skiewiez said the MetroStars have been in consultations with YankeeNets, but those are over. Jaimes said the question of would the city do certain things to make the arena a reality was one of the things holding up the deal, but that too is no longer an issue.

"They wanted to know would we sell Renaissance Mall to the YankeeNets, and I'm here to say we will," he said. "We will do so to widen Lafayette Street as needed."

There were also concerns that the construction would displace residents, homeowners and entrepreneurs in the area, but Jaimes said those can now be put to rest as well.

"Every property owner, every merchant will be treated any different as we assemble the job," he promised.

Gottesman owns a national chain of parking garages, but is headquartered in Newark. He said the compromise agreement is the best thing for his and the city's bottom line.

Since the historic merger between the pro sports teams, YankeeNets has pledged to move the Nets and Devils into a \$285 million arena that its supporters believe will make Newark a regional destination for tourists, local and area residents. However, a major debate had been raging over whether the arena should be connected to Penn Station with an enclosed walkway or to position it closer to Broad Street.

Jaimes, who supported the rail station site, eventually will have to sign off on the final arena site plan. He endorsed the YankeeNets-Gottesman agreement. He said the undertaking will create thousands of new jobs for city residents, new opportunities for local families, and tax revenue for the city.

"It's a win-win situation for all parties," he said.

Ministers conference addresses:

The blighted plight of the black condition

ORANGE — The Black Ministers' Council of New Jersey will hold a statewide conference April 12-15 at the Newark Airport Hilton Hotel. The Council has adopted the same theme of the Congressional Black Caucus, "Just Permanent Interests," which too happens to be a book by Congressman William Clay of Missouri.

Some of the issues to be covered over during the four-day conference will be: 1. Education; 2. Healthcare; 3. Inner City Revitalization and Economic Development; 4. Law Enforcement; 5. Political Education and Empowerment.

Key leaders in each area have been invited to lay out the issue, but also to articulate what

African American community statistics for AIDS, cancer, diabetes, infant mortality, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and heart disease are increasing.

address them. Each address will be followed by work sessions where the goals and timetables will be laid out. On April 12 candidates for the U.S. Senate will meet with the Council's Board of Directors (Democrat and Republican) April 13, Assembly Speaker Jackie Collins and Mr. David Scarra, of the Education Law Center will lead a discussion on school construction April 14.

Attorney General John Farmer, Supt. Carson Dunbar will discuss law enforcement and the minority community.

These are interests that the African American community have talked about for a long time, stated the Ministers Council. The conference is designed to do more than talk about issues, but rather to offer specific goals and timelines by which progress can be measured. After the conference, the Council will partner with non-profit organizations, corporations, government and other entities to achieve the goals set forth. Without goals and timelines, the council feels the plight of the Americans will be one of wandering and remaining stagnant; fall behind the rest of the country. "We cannot year after year tolerate failure," the Council declared in a press statement. "Futher we



Rev. Reginald Jackson File Photo

must press the administration and the General Assembly to comply with Supreme Court orders regarding pre-school and construction. With less than half of children in Abbott districts meeting minimum standards some goals and timelines must be set and we must look at accountability.

It is not a surprise that many urban areas are in desperate need of revitalization and development. Neighborhoods are filled with abandoned properties and drug houses. Because of poorly producing schools, businesses won't move into some of these cities.

According to the Council, almost half of African Americans in New Jersey do not have access to or quality healthcare. For many the only access to healthcare is the emergency room at the hospital. Yes within five years there will be very few inner city hospitals and inner city residents, many without transportation will have to find a way to hospitals in the suburbs. Further, the Council states, while statistics are decreasing in other segments of the population, in the African American community statistics for AIDS, cancer, diabetes, infant mortality, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and heart disease are increasing.

Despite the admission of racial profiling by the State Police, there remains major concerns and divisions between law enforcement and the minority community. In fact, the problem with local police as it relates to racial profiling and treatment of minorities, is much worse than it is at the state level, according to the Council.

PEOPLE

April 12 — April 18, 2000

Community Calendar

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12
CALDWELL - The Office of the County Clerk will be at Town Hall. For further information, call (973) 621-4915.

MILLBURN - The Renee Fossaner Gallery at the Papermill Playhouse provides showcase for New Jersey Water Color Society. Call (973) 379-3636 for more information.

PLAINFIELD - The United National Bank Community Education Center will sponsor the class "Let's Talk About Reading." For further information, call (908) 753-7664.

THURSDAY, APRIL 13
MONTCLAIR - The Office of the County Clerk will be at the Municipal Building and at the Nutley Public Library. For further information, call (973) 621-4915.

THURSDAY, APRIL 13
NEW BRUNSWICK - The State Bar Foundation will sponsor a free seminar on buying and selling a home. For further information, contact Florence Nathan at (732) 937-7518.

FRIDAY, APRIL 14
JERSEY CITY - New Jersey City University presents a dance workshop. Call (201) 200-2315.

GLEN RIDGE - The Office of the County Clerk will be at the Glen Ridge Public Library. For further information, call (973) 621-4915.

SATURDAY, APRIL 15
NEW YORK - The Jazz Lincoln Center presents pianist/composer Andrew Hill and vibraphonist Bobby Hutcherson performing Blue Note recordings of 1960. The show begins at 8 p.m. For further information, call (212) 721-6500.

NEW BRUNSWICK - Rutgers University Orchestra concert. Nicholas Music Center at 8 p.m., tickets are \$8-16. For further information, call Mason Gross School of Arts at (732) 932-7591.

NEW BRUNSWICK - Dance (Dance Plus April) at the New Theater Douglas Campus, Rutgers University. Show time is 2 p.m. to 8 p.m., tickets are \$6-\$16. For further information, call (732) 932-7511.

SUNDAY, APRIL 16
NEW BRUNSWICK - Concert (Rutgers Kirkpatrick Choir) at the Nicholas Music Center. Concert begins at 8 p.m., free of charge. For additional information, call Mason Gross Department of Dance at (732) 932-7511.

NEW BRUNSWICK - The New Jersey Freedom Organization will hold its annual People's Convention at Rutgers University. For further information, call (973) 545-5756.

THURSDAY, APRIL 16
NEW BRUNSWICK - Phillip J. Levin Theater, 15 Livingston Avenue, presents "The Good Doctor," at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$8-\$16. For further information, call Mason Gross School of

Arts at (732) 932-7511.

MONDAY, APRIL 17
LIVINGSTON - The Office of the County Clerk will be at the Town Hall. For further information, call (973) 621-4915.

NEWARK - WISCOMM Investment Club will hold an investment seminar. For further information, call (973) 297-1275.

TUESDAY, APRIL 18
WEST ORANGE - The Office of the County Clerk will be at the Town Hall. For further information, call (973) 621-4915.

MAHWAH - Ramapo College Lecture Series, 2000 guest speaker Jim Carmichael will be lecturing on "Global AIDS Epidemic." The lecture will be held at 6 p.m. in the Mahwah, York Room. This lecture is free of charge. For further information, contact Terence Miller at (201) 984-7533.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19
LINCOLN - Monmouth County Park System will hold a collage class. For further information, call the Park System at (732) 942-4000.

MAPLEWOOD - The Office of the County Clerk will be at the Town Hall. For further information, call (973) 621-4915.

JERSEY CITY - The New Jersey City University will sponsor their annual high school jazz festival. For more information, call (201) 200-3151.

THURSDAY, APRIL 20
NEWARK - After hours with Jazzberry Jam. For information, call the Newark Museum at (973) 596-6550.

NEW BRUNSWICK - Concert (Jazz Ensemble Too) at Nicholas Music Center/Rutgers University. Concert begins at 8 p.m., concert is free of charge. For further information, call (732) 932-7511.

TUESDAY, APRIL 24
MILLBURN - The Office of the County Clerk will be at the Police Department. For further information, call (973) 621-4915.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25
MORRISTOWN - The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra will perform. For further information, call (732) 247-7200 ext. 542.

BELLEVEILLE - The Office of the County Clerk will be at the Public Library. For further information, call (973) 621-4915.

THURSDAY, APRIL 27
JERSEY CITY - Jersey City State University presents the lecture "Calish and Combed Stories About Black Men, Women, and Families." Call (201) 200-3524.



Michele S. Darling, Executive Vice President of Human Resources for the Prudential Insurance Company of America, will deliver a lunchtime address on April 17, entitled "Extraordinary Women in Extraordinary Times" in Dryden Hall on the 7th floor of the Prudential Building on Broad Street in Newark.

Business women to speak at Prudential during lunchtime series



Xerona Clayton, the first black person in the South to have her own television show, was appointed Corporate Vice President for Urban Affairs with TBS. She will deliver a lunchtime address on April 17 from noon until 2 p.m., entitled "Street Smart: Success Strategies For Making It in the Business World."



Bernadette Grey was named Editorial Director of the Working Woman Network. She, too, will be a part of Prudential's ongoing salute to women. Grey is an authority on women in business, technology and entrepreneurship. She will speak at Prudential's Roseland office on Becker Farm Road on April 20 from noon until 2 p.m.

Collins rises in rank at Marriott Hotel chain



Retanya Collins, a native of California, poses in front of the Marriott Hotel in Newark, where she is a manager. She started her career in the hospitality industry with the Sheraton Hotel in 1974-1980, where she rose from a front desk clerk at the Anaheim Sheraton before eventually moving on to the position of resident manager of the Marriott in Newark.

NJCU students celebrate "El Carnaval Dominicana"



New Jersey City University recently held "El Carnaval Dominicana," in celebration of the independence of the Dominican Republic. The event was sponsored by NJCU's Council on Hispanic Affairs. From left, students Jose Guerrero, Marc Carpena, Bernard Vega, and Elena Rivera wore traditional farm clothing for the event.

Black History Moments

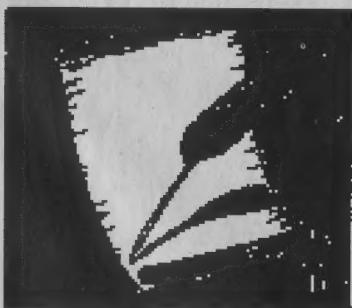


Debi Thomas - (1967-) CHAMPION ON ICE

1984 — Debi Thomas was the first black skater on a World Team, and in 1985 she held United States and world figure skating championships.

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Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929 - 1968)



NATIONAL
BRIEFSAMTRAK STRUGGLES
WITH NATIONAL RACE
DISCRIMINATION

WASHINGTON, DC (NNPA)—The legal representatives of a group of African American plaintiffs presenting a class action suit against Amtrak have decided to upgrade their case to a national claim of discrimination. Amtrak currently has no African Americans in management positions. The case, Campbell, et al., v. National Railroad Passenger Corporation, et al., was originally filed in November 1999 in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia on behalf of 21 current and former African American employees in Amtrak's Intercity Strategic Business Unit (ISBU).

The suit now includes 71 plaintiffs and covers the entire Amtrak rail line operating in 29 states.

"The information we have been receiving from our clients regarding Amtrak's treatment of its African American employees clearly reflects a lack of understanding of our nation's civil rights laws," said Robert Childs and Timothy Fleming, lead counsel for the plaintiffs.

WADE SWORN IN AS
PRESIDENT OF SENEGAL

DAKAR, Senegal (PANAP)—Abdoulaye Wade, elected as Senegal's new president, was sworn after a two-hour meeting with outgoing President Abdou Diouf. Wade praised Diouf for his adherence to the ideals of democracy during his 20-year tenure. He also announced that Diouf had also accepted the chance to represent him at the OAU-UEC summit to be held from 3-4 April in Cairo, Egypt. "I was briefed of the great state projects and programs during our discussions," Wade said in a statement, adding that he was aware of the responsibility he was shouldering and the hope millions of Senegalese placed on him. After his meeting with Diouf, Wade was escorted to his home in a suburb of Dakar by thousands of young Senegalese citizens. He said a new cabinet will be named before April 4, the country's 40th independence anniversary.

BIRTHS IN THE U.S.
INCREASE FOR THE FIRST
TIME SINCE 1990

WASHINGTON, DC (NNPA)—The number of births in the United States rose in 1999 for the first time since 1990, according to a report recently released. "Births: Final Data for 1999," prepared by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics, shows that over 3,900,000 children were born in 1999, a 2 percent increase from 1998. The birth rate (the number of births per 1,000 population) and the fertility rate (the number of births per 1,000 women aged 15-44) also increased slightly in 1999. The increase in numbers of births was fueled by increases in birth rates for women in their twenties, the principal childbearing ages, and for women in their thirties.

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Black women celebrate Height's birthday



The National Council of Black Women, Inc. gathered March 25 to commemorate the 88th birthday of Dr. Dorothy Height. She is pictured here in 1997 with the 1997 NCNW Excellence in Teaching Awards judging panel. From left to right: Dr. Gloria Gilmore, Ann Wright, William Trueheart, and Height (center).

WASHINGTON, DC (NNPA)—The National Council of Negro Women, Inc. made history when African American women from across the country gathered March 25 to commemorate the 88th birthday of Dr. Dorothy Height, Chair and President of NCNW and to launch the "Burn the Mortgage-Legacy Initiative."

"This birthday will mark the kick-off for the 'Burn the Mortgage-Legacy Initiative' as we experience the magic that happens when we all come together for a common goal," said Dr. Height, who is internationally recognized for her leadership in developing the legacy of the NCNW. "Across the country, women will meet in homes, churches, and community centers. Here, at the headquarters building located between the White House and the Capitol, the only black-owned institution on the Hill, the group will celebrate by gathering reports in an initiative that will enable NCNW to expand its services to women and their families today and for decades to come."

The gathering of more than

300 women and representatives at the reception and dinner celebrated, in part, the completion of the mortgage on the house at 633 Pennsylvania Avenue. Another portion of the celebration, the initiative, aims at increasing NCNW's membership by 200,000 before the end of the year. Dr. Height's birthday was also commemorated as visitors enjoyed an evening of jazz, entertainment, corporate gifts and special guest appearances, including a birthday message from President Bill Clinton and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton. Other birthday well-wishers included Mayor Anthony Williams, Secretary of Labor Alexis Herman, Director of the National Park Service Robert Stanton and Secretary of Transportation Rodney Slater.

The National Council of Negro Women is a nonprofit agency founded by Mary McLeod Bethune in 1935. The NCNW has an outreach of over four million women in 250 community-based sections and 38 affiliates in the U.S. and Africa.

Female circumcision still prevalent in Kenya

By John Mwaura

NAIROBI, Kenya (PANAP)—It is the month of December and school vacations in Kenya have begun for seven weeks to give students time to celebrate Independence, Christmas and New Year's festivities.

For one young girl, the recess is a real joy and special time for her. She will undergo a rite which will mark her passage from childhood to adulthood. She will undergo circumcision.

Not so for Gladys Mwari, who shivers at the thought of "facing the razor blade." She even contemplates running away from home to her aunt's, but a sharp rebuke from her elderly parents persuades her to stay home.

Jane Muthoni considers herself lucky. Though her parents have made all of the preparations for the circumcision ceremony, a social worker she confided in about her fears of the ceremony "abducted" her.

Every year hundreds of Kenyan girls undergo circumcision, also referred to as disfigurement or female genital mutilation, according to UNICEF.

Circumcision of women in some communities is held in the highest esteem. Those who practice it say the rite is meant to initiate girls into adulthood. Most girls in communities that practice it abandon school to get married.

The communities also believe that circumcision helps girls to remain virgins. Men who support the idea say the practice represses the sexual desire of

women and is a way of curbing promiscuity.

Female circumcision, however, has been associated with several fatal health risks such as hemorrhaging, infection and shock. Long term consequences are sterility, menstrual irregularities, difficulties during intercourse, urinary tract infections and problems during childbirth.

In addition, there are psychological effects, which in many cases are subtle and buried within.

A Kenyan medic, Dr. O. Obaro, says the equipment used by local communities during circumcision in most cases is not sterilized and can infect the initiated with disease, including HIV/AIDS, hence the need to educate the practitioners on the consequences of this outdated custom.

A woman leader agrees, saying: "I underwent the ritual when I was a young girl and the tools of trade were not only rusty, but generally unhygienic. I now realize the dangers I faced after the ritual."

Research carried out by the Programs for Appropriate Technology in Health says the practice gives some Kenyan girls the courage to have early sex as a test of their womanhood.

According to the research, health workers found that some of the girls have to undergo another "cut" when they are married as their sex organs are stitched at the time of circumcision.

The practice is more common among the Somali of northern Kenya and in Somalia itself.

Conference examines
relationship between
Jefferson and Hemings

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—A conference that took place on April 8 examined the relationship between Thomas Jefferson and his slave and likely lover Sally Hemings, in an attempt to determine if anyone should care about it.

The conference was held at the University of Richmond. Participants included former University of Virginia pathologist Eugene A. Foster, who two years ago performed DNA tests that linked the Jefferson family to Eston Hemings—Sally Hemings' youngest son.

Tina Andrews, screenwriter for the CBS miniseries "Sally Hemings: An American Scandal" and Annette Gordon-Reed, a New York University law professor, who in her 1997 book on Jefferson and Hemings accused past Jefferson biographers of laboring to reject a charge they didn't want to believe, were among the conference's panelists.

"People should care because I think they should care about actual events that occurred," said Dianne Swann-Wright, director of special programs at the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation, which owns and operates Monticello.

"As African-Americans, we

have become accustomed to people not recognizing our history as part of American history. So, for African-Americans this is an emotional issue," Swann-Wright said.

Rumors that Jefferson and Hemings were lovers began circulating during his presidency, although the third president privately denied the liaison.

But stories passed on through generations of Hemings descendants held that Jefferson and the teenage slave bore six lovers while he was American minister to France, and remained so until his death in 1826.

Hemings was the daughter of Jefferson's father-in-law, John Wayles, and slave Elizabeth Hemings, which makes Sally the half-sister of Jefferson's wife, who died young.

Many scholars have rejected the claim, but the results of DNA tests issued in November 1998 matched descendants of Eston Hemings with Jefferson's family. The test, however, did not get a match with descendants of Thomas Woodson, who may have been Hemings' oldest son.

"People have a lot of feelings and emotions about this," Swann-Wright said.

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Practice Patience

Snide, offensive, and rude comments have no merit or value in the workplace. As a matter of fact, they serve no purpose at all, other than to relieve the pinned aggression by the person delivering them. And the annoying under the breath comments do nothing but reveal one's immaturity. True, when working with a group of people there are all types of personalities, that you must learn to deal with. However, to get a head on these personalities one must take the time to understand people, and when you arrive at this lofty level in life, the snide, offensive, defensive and rude comments will become history. So how does one arrive at this place, when people no longer get on your last nerve - patience. Yes, this is the key - practicing patience I once read, is when you put the car in idle when you really feel like stripping the gears. I thought this was a pretty profound statement. If you do not demonstrate patience, then it suggests that there is turmoil happening within you. People need to develop a sense of calm, especially, when working with other people in a closed environment, because otherwise it disturbs the groove of what should be taking place. And this is not to say that people don't stress you, but learning how to filter that stress to bring about a harmonious working environment, is the challenge. Peace be still.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR Election 2000: We can't afford to lose this time

The results of the Democratic and Republican primaries are just what Black communities might have expected. Leadership that reflects the least amount of positive return for African Americans seem to be gaining ground in this election race.

Throughout the campaign, there has been little dialogue from candidates that address Black communities: 10 years ago candidates dropped race targeted keywords. They don't do that anymore. These days, they just don't speak much of Black communities at all. It's like being in a room where people politely talk around you as if you weren't there. As if you're not a factor. It's only mildly rude, but in the long run, you know it bodes badly for you.

That's where we will be in election 2000. For too many people, the Black vote is not considered a factor, and that will not play out well for Black families in the long run.

The next president will have immense influence over incoming federal judges. He will make choices over issues that strongly affect communities of color such as the minimum wage, health care, education and teaching salaries and law enforcement agencies and policies. The next president's administration will use the results of the census to

School choice offers hope

By Lee Hubbard

Just before the holidays last year, the aspirations of thousands of Cleveland schoolchildren were put on hold when federal judge Solomon Oliver ruled that a Cleveland school choice program was a violation of the separation of church and state and was therefore unconstitutional.

That's a shame because Cleveland's four-year-old voucher program gives needy families with children in kindergarten through sixth grade up to \$2,500 in tuition vouchers.

At issue is that most of the 3,543 children enrolled in the Cleveland program are in religious schools. Oliver said that because nearly all the 56 participating schools were religion-based, the program had "the effect of advancing religion through government-supported religious indoctrination." While Oliver ordered the program shut down, he agreed to let it continue until an appeal could be heard.

School choice supporters said they would appeal the decision to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit.

And they should, as Oliver's decision raised new questions that it answered.

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By Dr. Manning Marable

The cruelest example of human rights violations in the United States today is the death penalty. Everyone knows that the death penalty is not now, nor has it ever been, a deterrent to violent crime. Social scientists for decades have long established that the death penalty is inherently racist. African-American defendants found guilty of the identical crime as a white defendant are statistically at least four times more likely to be given the death penalty. Black people currently comprise more than 40 percent of death row inmates. Regional differences make it 160 times more likely that a person convicted of a capital offense in the South will be executed than one in the Northeast. And of course, the capital justice system can never guarantee that innocent people won't be executed by the state. For these and other reasons, the U.S. Supreme Court, in the 1972 case of Furman v. Georgia, outlawed capital punishment.

Since the death penalty was reinstated in 1976, there has been mounting legal evidence that capital punishment cannot be implemented in a fair and impartial manner. The state of Illinois, for example, currently has 161 people on death row. Since 1977, 12 people in Illinois have been executed, but 13 on death row were proven to have been wrongly convicted. Several death row prisoners in Illinois were freed after a Northwestern University journalism class proved that they were innocent and that others had actually committed the crimes.

The Chicago Tribune recently examined the almost 300 cases in Illinois during the past 23 years in which the death penalty was rendered. About one half of the 280 cases that were appealed were ultimately reversed in favor of new trials or sentencing hearings. In at least thirty cases, the Chicago Tribune revealed that defendants in capital cases had been represented by attorneys who were disbarred or suspended from legal practice.

This overwhelming evidence that inno-

Census: It's not too late to get our fair share

The Black Press of America

It may seem as though it's the day after the big event. Like the day after Christmas, or after a Super Bowl or even April 15 (another date that looks like a culture), the census rolls through like a rambling John Wheeler; latch on now because tomorrow doesn't count. Do it or wait ten years for another shot.

Actually, however, in this case it's not too late to be counted in the census. The hard count of the census—the "census count"—is still being tabulated until May 2000. That is the part that really matters.

For those who step away from the census because of Big Brother paranoia, personal or

Stupid Tuesday: Why Americans don't vote and should

Dr. Lenora Fulani

When Al Gore gave his victory speech recently as the voting wrapped up in the 12 states he won, he proclaimed with a wide, wide grin, "Now we know why they call it Super Tuesday!"

Super Tuesday, indeed. Before we get all puffed up and over-enlarged like the Vice President did, we might want to ask, "what exactly was 'super' about it?" The Democratic Party produced its lowest primary turnout in 40 years — the one exception being 1996 when Bill Clinton ran unopposed for his party's nomination. (That was the year he collected \$13 million in taxpayer money to run a primary campaign against no one.) Last Tuesday, the energized Democrats — to the extent there were any — voted in the crossover Republican

prompted Illinois Governor George Ryan, a Republican, to order a halt on the use of the death penalty. Ryan is a long-time supporter of capital punishment. But as he explained to the press, "I now favor a moratorium, because I have grave concerns about our state's shameful record of convicting innocent people and putting them on death row."

The opposite extreme on the political spectrum from Ryan is represented by another Republican, Texas Governor George W. Bush. A self-proclaimed "compassionate conservative," Bush has been downright vicious in his implementation of capital punishment. In six short years, Bush has presided over the executions of more than one hundred people, and according to him, every single one of them was guilty.

A recent New York Times article by Stephen B. Bright, the director of the Southern Center for Human Rights in Atlanta, illustrates how the Texas "assembly-line process" for dispatching people to the "execution chamber" works. Texas has no public defender system, and attorneys who have little or no experience in the defense of capital cases are assigned. They are often unable to retain independent investigators to review the evidence necessary to provide proof of a defendant's innocence. Bright notes, "The Texas courts do not even require that defense counsels remain awake during trials." In several capital cases, defense attorneys actually fell asleep, and the defendants were sentenced to death. One of those convicted, Carl Johnson, was executed in 1995.

The struggle to halt the execution of America's most prominent political prisoner, African-American journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal, has helped to spark a grassroots movement to end capital punishment. Legislatures in 16 of the 38 states with death penalty laws have or are reviewing moratoriums on executions. Eight cities have called for a halt to capital punishment, of which the most significant is Philadelphia. Last month, in a 12 to 4 vote, Philadelphia's City Council approved a resolution demanding a two-year

Washington, on the trading room floor on Wall Street and in the boardrooms on Fifth Avenue.

When funding is allocated to make sure that the digital divide or proper provisions for health care, we stand to gain more than we may lose.

And we lost big last time around. In the 1990 census, more than 1.4 million African Americans were not counted. That means across the board, including housing, civil rights, policing, lending and anti-discrimination law, we were underrepresented.

It is estimated that these cities lost the following in state and/or federal funding: Los Angeles, \$120 million; Chicago,

The census is our leveraging point at the negotiation tables in Washington.

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moratorium on implementing the death penalty, and called for the creation of a new state constitution to study Pennsylvania's capital punishment. Democratic City Councilwoman Donna Miller, who introduced the resolution, observed that "90 percent of the people on Pennsylvania's death row are people who cannot afford legal counsel, and 90 percent of those from Philadelphia are people of color."

In Congress, Democratic U.S. Senator Russ Feingold has called on the Clinton administration to issue a similar moratorium on capital punishment. Feingold explained that "the problems of inadequate representation, lack of access to DNA testing, police misconduct, racial bias and even simple errors are more numerous than stars. These are problems that have plagued the administration of capital punishment around the country since the reinstatement of capital punishment in the latter part of the 19th century ago." Several months before Feingold's public challenge, Attorney General Janet Reno authorized a review to determine if racial disparities exist in federal capital punishment cases.

These hopeful signs provide encouragement to those of us who have always opposed the death penalty. But we must take the struggle to halt capital punishment to the next level. We should challenge elected officials who are soliciting our votes in the 2000 elections to have "the political and moral decency to support the death penalty moratorium. In the words of Supreme Court Associate Justice Harry Blackmun, "we must halt once and for all the 'machinery of death.'"

Dr. Manning Marable is Professor of History and Political Science, and the Director of the Institute for Research in African-American Studies, Columbia University. "Along the Color Line" is distributed free of charge to over 325 publications throughout the U.S. and internationally. Dr. Marable's column is also available on the Internet at www.manningmarable.net.

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BUSINESS CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12

DEVILLE - "The Benefits of Globalization to New Jersey's R&D" will be held at the West Hotel. For further information, call (973) 627-5330.

THURSDAY, APRIL 13

NEWARK - The U.S. Small Business Administration sponsors the seminar "The Business Plan You Need Now." For information, call (973) 645-2434.

FRIDAY, APRIL 14

NEWARK - Rutgers University is holding a basic Internet and computer class. For more information, call (973) 242-4128.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19

NEW YORK - The Power Breakfast Seminar Series 2000 will be held at the Roosevelt Hotel. For information, call (888) 253-1110.

THURSDAY, MAY 11

NEWARK - QNBC Training & Technical Assistance Program, focuses on small business, financials & sales. Classes run from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the RFB Conference Room. For further information, contact Tendi Ndoro at (973) 242-4128.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17

NEWARK - Newark International Airport Eighth Annual 2000 Aviation Conference and Exposition. Time to be determined. Time is from 8:30 - 2:00 p.m. For additional information, call (973) 645-2434 or visit Port Authority at 973-961-0265.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31

NEW YORK - New Jersey Minority Purchasing Council, Inc. presents "Business & Business Expo 2000" at Sheraton New York Towers contact (212) 502-5563.

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WESTFIELD (AP) — Even though 48.2 percent of Americans own stocks, either in mutual funds or individually, an Investment Company Institute (the mutual fund industry's trade group) survey shows that most investors do not understand what investments they own or how they work.

Almost everyone has a need to learn the basics of mutual funds. Some people might need to know how to choose investments for a 401(k) or other retirement plan. Others might want to invest money received from an insurance or divorce settlement. Many people just want to know how to get started as an investor. Still others own a hedge-fund of funds bought at various times without much thought to how they complement each other.

Getting a year-end bonus, a tax refund, or just reading that a popular fund is about to close prompts many would-be investors to buy a fund.

An individual's investment portfolio should be more than just a collection of mutual funds. Before you select funds to invest in, you will want to determine your investment goals, the time-frame for needing the money, and the amount of risk you are willing to take.

For most people, mutual

funds should be a major part of their investment portfolio, unless they have a lot of money and ample time to devote to investing in individual securities. While there are arguments for buying stocks and bonds directly, consider buying mutual funds first, or at least use them as a core holding, because there are drawbacks to individual stock and bond picking and trading. The first drawback to individual securities is

"The first drawback to individual securities is that it takes a great deal of time and expertise to analyze a company."

that it takes a great deal of time and expertise to analyze a company, its prospects for earnings growth, how it compares to its competitors with regard to performance over the short and long term, the company's debt level and credit worthiness, what new products are in the pipeline, and technological changes looming that might harm or improve business.

Second, purchasing individual securities involves higher transaction costs. Even when you use a discount broker, the commissions you pay to buy and sell are not cheap, although the cost of online trading is getting lower every year. Third, owning individual stocks means less probability of proper diversification. To properly diversify a stock portfolio, you need to own at least 10 to 20 different companies in different industries, which could cost thousands of dollars. For the same price you might pay for 100 shares of one security, you can buy shares in a fund that owns 100 securities. Diversification lowers your investment risk if one or two stocks plunge, others may gain in value, offsetting the loss.

Nevertheless, there are several circumstances when you do not need mutual funds:

You are adept at picking individual stocks.

You have at least \$20,000 — \$50,000 to buy at least 10 to 20 stocks (depending on stock prices), or you plan to invest in Treasury bills, notes, or bonds.

In the last case, you would probably do better purchasing treasury securities directly through the Federal Reserve's Treasury Direct program, (www.publicdebt.treas.gov).

Mathew F. Raftree named president of Investors Savings Bank

MILLBURN — The Board of Directors of Investors Savings Bank unanimously named Mathew F. Raftree as Patrick J. Gattuso's successor as President and CEO. Grant will remain as Chairman of the Board of the bank.

Raftree, a Certified Public Accountant, came to Investors as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer in 1993 and has directed the investment and accounting operations of the bank since then; he was elected to the Board of Directors in 1991

and was named Executive Vice President in 1992.

Prior to joining Investors Savings, Raftree served as both the acting Executive Director and Director of Finance of the NJ Housing Finance Agency and Executive Vice President and CFO for Harmonia Savings Bank. A graduate of Seton Hall University, he began his career with KPMG Peat Marwick in 1960.

Raftree's professional affiliations include the American Institute of Certified Public

Accountants, the New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants and the Financial Managers Society of New York.

He and his wife Adrienne reside in Colts Neck.

Grant, a graduate of Iona College and New Rochelle, New York, was elected President and Chief Executive Officer in April of 1990. During his tenure, Investors has grown to be one of the strongest banks in the Garden State, with assets in excess of \$4 billion and 32 offices

serving Essex, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, and Union counties.

Investors Savings' Board of Directors also announced that Robert M. Cashill, a graduate of St. Peter's College, has been named Executive Vice President/Investment Portfolio Manager. He came to Investors Savings from Salomon Smith Barney in 1996 and has served as both a member of the bank's board and Senior Vice President of Investors Savings Bank.

Oprah, queen of the airwaves, moves to print

NEW YORK (AP) — Oprah Winfrey knew she had a problem when a woman who she was interviewing to be the editor of her new magazine asked the following question: "I would like to know, who will be the queen?"

Obviously, that particular candidate didn't get the job.

There is little question that Winfrey, from her home in Chicago, is the reigning monarch of her latest media venture, a new magazine that bears her nickname, "O."

Due out on newstands April 19, 2000, O is intended to bring Winfrey's message of self-determination and empowerment for women, already widely disseminated over the airwaves, into a magazine format.

She did eventually find an editor in Ellen Kunes who, Winfrey says, "has done a good job of not having her ego get in the way with someone like me, who has such a big mouth."

Making sure the point isn't lost, she emphasized, "I won't shut up. I WON'T SHUT UP! That's on the record."

In order to morph the Oprah phenomenon into the printed word, Winfrey partnered with Hearst, the publisher of major women's magazines such as Cosmopolitan and Marie Claire. Hearst is accustomed to working with partners, putting out Smartypants by Dow Jones and Talk with the Miramax film



Oprah Winfrey File photo

studio.

O will be slightly oversized, about the shape of Martha Stewart Living, said publisher Alyce Alston. The initial print run was planned for 500,000, but was recently pushed up to 1 million, making it an aggressive launch.

The magazine will be bimonthly for two issues, then monthly beginning in September.

For Winfrey, who will be the magazine's editorial director and also will write occasional articles, the transition from television to print has been the hardest thing she's done since first going on TV in 1978. Long lead times, working without a camera, and relying on a tape recorder in interviews were all new experiences.

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The Monmouth County Fair Housing Board has been established by the Board of Chosen Freeholders to provide policy and guidance on compliance with State and Federal fair housing laws and regulations to protect the rights of all Monmouth County residents. The Fair Housing Office will provide the following services:

1. Coordination of a county-wide approach to ensure fair housing for residents.
2. Establishment of an intake and screening procedure for discrimination complaints. Services will include assistance and counseling on procedures for filing a complaint, help in completing the complaint form, and review and verification process.
3. Provide general information and assistance on housing problems, and when necessary refer clients to other agencies that are funded and staffed to handle a specific housing problem, including referral to the New Jersey Department of Civil Rights.
4. Education, training and technical assistance to individuals, groups, agencies and/or organizations.
5. Acquire and coordinate assistance of New Jersey Division of Civil Rights, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for verification of discrimination practices and negotiation settlement for fair housing problems.

The office will provide service and assistance to the general public however, we have targeted the following groups as our highest priority: MINORITIES, HANDICAPPED, HOMELESS, SENIOR CITIZENS, FAIR HOUSING GROUPS, CONCERNED HOME/APARTMENT LEASE GROUPS, HOMEBUILDERS, REALTORS, LENDING INSTITUTIONS AND MUNICIPALITIES.

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The Gospel Insider



By Diane Blackmon

Ron Kenoly undergoes double bypass

"I am resurrection and the life. He who believes in me, though he may die shall live. (John 11:25)"

Gospel Insider's heartfelt prayers go to Ron Kenoly who underwent double bypass heart surgery last month. According to his publicist, the elder Kenoly is still expected to perform at the Dove Awards at the Grand Ole Opry.

In addition to the Dove Awards, the annual New York State Gospel Convention will be held in Rochester, NY on April 12-15. For more information, contact (716) 496-3344.

Gospel Insider 2000 weekend radio show premieres nationally this month, in the Top 40 US Markets, including WHTZ in New York, KLTN/KLTH in Los Angeles, KHYN in Dallas and KDVA in Oakland/San Francisco.

Featured guests on the first Gospel Insider 2000 Weekend Edition include Dotie Peoples, Pop Winans, Yolanda Adams, and Dr. Mattie Moss Clark.

Locally Gospel Insider 2000 "Weekend Edition" can be heard on WJMG-AM/1300 AM and WTHE-AM/1520 AM.

The New York State Gospel Group will host its fifth annual Gospel Fest, which takes place from April 12-15. All religious groups, choirs, soloists, step teams and churches are invited to attend the four-day event. For more information, call (716) 436-3344.

A few months ago, Men of Standard settled their lawsuit against Muscle Shoals Records. Now it appears that the group has found a new manager in Jeffery Rolfe. Rolfe is also the husband of the talented Kelly Price.

Gospel Insider On The Road

This month we team up with "Burn" (Black University Radio Network) for "Spring Fest" at the University of Texas at Houston, Friday April 14. If you are in the Houston area, please visit us.

Attention Future Gospel Stars

If you are a performer or artist looking for the opportunity to display your talent, you may want to attend the highly anticipated music and arts convention founded by Edwin and Bishop Walter Hawkins. The convention takes place June 25 through July 1 at the Love Center Church in Oakland, CA and record company executives, radio announcers and other music industry representatives are expected to attend. Contact (510) 264-1766 for more information.

Gospel Insider wants to hear from the community. If you think that your pastor is an outstanding servant of God, a true blessing to your congregation that's on fire for the Lord, nominate them for the Top 10 Congregation in the Nation. Honors will be awarded June 15-30 during Black Music Month. Call the Gospel Insider Feedback line @ (352) 969-8474, or send a postcard to 3401 Barham Blvd., Suite 5, Los Angeles, CA 90068. All phone calls and postcards must be received by midnight, May 22.

According to Brother Paul Gentile at Gospel Insider/CEP, FM Power 88 in Las Vegas, listeners' Top five songs of the week are:

- We Worship You The Colorado Mass Choir
- At The Table Richard Smallwood
- I Hear The Music Vickie Winans
- Send Up Judah Donald Malloy
- Yeah Yolanda Adams

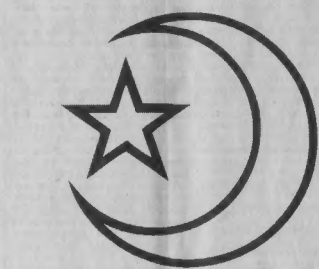
The 19th Annual Gospel Music Excellence Awards sponsored by the GMAW were recently awarded. Richard Smallwood took home six awards. Deitrick Haddon, Brent Jones and Hezekiah Walker were also multiple winners.

Jum'uaah: Nurturing the children

NEWARK — To all congregates of the Islamic faith, there was a column written in "The Sure Reality", the newsletter of Masjid Al-Haq, which centered on those "Believers Who Bring Their Children to Jum'uaah," which was written by Habibullah Saleem.

Jum'uaah, which is an obligatory congregational Friday prayer, is a sure way of providing children of Islam faith with the nutrition they need to grow in their faith.

"In Newark, there is a major effort that's been set in motion to bring greater unity and harmony among all Muslims and all Masjid's," said Saleem. "The message of concern is ringing in the ears of our young future leaders, as they are seen sitting on the floor at Masjid Al-Haq and other locations. From babies all the way to teenagers, the seeds of the future are being planted with tremendous vision concerning our future. Muslim status is



ISLAM

growing in America.

It is further stated by Saleem, how Imam W. Deen

Mohammed, who made a visit to Newark, spoke on the importance of organizing youth pro-

grammer for a progressive movement among the fledgling congregates.

Saleem continued: "Since the Imam's visit, Allah has blessed us with increased achievements, whereby students are able to attend after school tutorial classes, causing them to improve in their academic and social skills."

As a matter of fact, in Paterson and Jersey City, an all out push to incorporate these programs for students to benefit from are underway. "In order to grow as Muslims, we must learn to show our faith not only when things go the way we want them, but when they are seemingly at times just the opposite," said Saleem. "It is Allah, through the life of the Prophet Muhammad, who has given us the best example for joy and struggle. So remember, bringing our children to Jum'uaah is truly an advantage we must not allow to escape us Allahu Akbar!

A tribute to Reggie Harris: A man of principle



UPH 9 anchor Reggie Harris

By Gloria Dulan-Wilson

Reggie Harris was a very handsome black man, a man of principle, and a deeply spiritual being. He tried to lend those principles to all his news reports, which many have led to his dismissal from CBS in 1997. However, their loss was definitely UPN 9's gain. The coup of having Reggie serve as field

reporter enhanced the already stellar news team, made up of anchor Brenda Blackmon and Ernie Enastor. They gave him a free hand to do his coverage his way, leading to some of the most important exclusives ever.

Blackmon, in making the announcement of Reggie's death, could not contain her tears (quite frankly, neither could I). In fact, it's not easy to maintain so-called journalistic objectivity when speaking of someone who has been so close. We would frequently swap "war stories" at Perks, a favorite Harlem club. Reggie was fiercely proud of his children, and very much in love with his wife Diane. He was her biggest fan, always talking of her latest play (Diane was a playwright), or her most recent triumph.

He was always interested in making sure his audience got a thorough understanding of the situation, and its impact on them. If it took longer than headline, he would rather stay and complete it than to leave it half done.

At Reggie's funeral, which was held March 31, at Englewood Baptist Church, in his eulogy, Pastor John H. Spencer Jr. likened him to the celestial reporter, John, in Revelations, who was instructed by God to "write the story and carry it forth to the world." Rev. Al Sharpton called Reggie a "friend who also was a consummate

professional. He never let his friendship stop him from asking that question you hoped would never be asked; or pointing out a fact that you hoped would be overlooked." To his children, Sharpton stated, "you can be proud of your father. He did not die from drugs, or bullet wounds, he did not die in disgrace. He has left a legacy of excellence. One you can look to proudly." He spoke of Reggie's interest in a tie company, and the ties he had given him as gifts over the year.

"Often, after an interview, Reggie would look to see if I was wearing one of his ties," said Sharpton. "Darren, I am giving you this tie that was given to me by your father. Wear it, and whenever you are undertaking anything, think of your father and his love for you."

Reggie's brother, Clarence Harris, of Atlanta, GA, admitted that he was having a difficult time understanding why God saw fit to take Reggie at

this time. "But, I'm going to accept that you must have needed him up there more than we did, and that he's looking down at us to make sure that we get the story straight."

Reggie was an example to us all. In addition to his work on screen, he spent hours in community service, working with youth in his Celebrity Readers program, often visiting community schools encouraging children to read and follow their dreams. His favorite saying, "Work is not life, work facilitates life. They can take your house, your job, or turn your lights out if you don't pay your bills. But they can never take away your knowledge or your dreams."

Last week, thousands from the broadcast and print journalism communities, along with other dignitaries, turned out to pay their respects to Reggie Harris, a man of principle and a deep spiritual being.

Prayer Corner

GOD, THANK YOU.



Thank You for guiding us in building a life of fulfillment. Day by day, we are building our lives on a foundation that God

has created for us to build upon. The life-affirming thoughts we think and the God directed choices we make are the tools we use in shaping a life of meaningful purpose. We are building a life that is rich with a diversity of people and experiences. So the choices we make are ones that are inclusive and embrace life with the joy of living. What an honor it is to be in partnership with God in making simple decisions and life-changing resolutions! Knowing that God is guiding us, we make choices that are building blocks on a foundation for a fulfilling life. "According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it."

1 Corinthians 3:10.

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Religion

City News A7

Well renowned ministers strike a lucrative note in Gospel music



Shirley Caesar File Photo

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The big gospel attraction used to be singers like Shirley Caesar, country quartets and mass choirs. Now, there's a new trend taking the gospel industry by storm: singing preachers.

Yes, those holy-rolling, Bible-belted advocates of righteous living are transforming their pulpits into concert stages with themselves as the stars.

In the 1970's, there were singing clergymen like Clay Evans and James Cleveland, but this new trend was kicked off by Bishop Carlton Pearson. He's done a series of CD's based on the annual Azusa Conference held at his Higher Dimensions church in Tulsa. His latest "Live at Azusa 3," and all the previous "Azusa" CD's have all sold over 100,000 copies.



Bishop Carlton Pearson Photo by Russ Harrington

Pearson's latest Azusa CD is up for two Dove Awards (Gospel's Grammys) at the 31st Annual Dove Awards, which takes place April 30 in Nashville. It will be syndicated through Easter weekend.

The "Live at Azusa," albums grew out of the conference worship service. The songs that went over were old church songs. People were crying. These old songs are the ones that really touched people the most. Those old songs kept us through the Jim Crow lines, civil rights riots, and the assassinations of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and President John F. Kennedy in the '60's.

Bishop T.D. Jakes' first CD, "Woman Thou Art Loosed," was

based on his popular book, which too has been adapted into a traveling gospel play. The play will come to New York's Apollo Theater from April 18-30. Jakes' album was released in 1997 and sold over 200,000 copies.

"The flow of the songs is built around the book," said Jakes of the album's success. "It is geared toward restoration for women. It deals with inner healing. I think the church was meant to be a hospital for hurting people."

The CD was so successful that Jakes followed up with "Live From the Potter's House," and "Sacred Love Songs." Ironically, Bishop Pearson nurtured Jakes' career when he was unknown. Pearson had Jakes speak at his Azusa conference. It was broadcast on Trinity Broadcasting Network and introduced Jakes to the national church community.

Another preacher Pearson took under his wings is Bishop Clarence E. McClendon. His first CD, "Shout Hallelujah," blows in May. Integrity and A&R executive Jerrel Gilliam said of

"Gospel music is most powerful when it is delivered as the Gospel."

—Jerrel Gilliam

McClendon, "Part of the divine call on him in establishing the Church of the Harvest was to be a house where praise and worship would produce a fragrance that would be carried around the world. He is not only a bishop over the church, but he is the worship leader for the church. Worship and spoken word are both vital components of this dynamic ministry."

Worship leader Ron Kenoly agrees. "When music is applied right, there is no difference between music and the spoken word," he said. "Music prepares the heart for the word."

The former pastor from Jubilee Christian Center in San Jose has also churned out gold albums such as "Lift Him Up," and his latest CD "We Offer Praises," is selling briskly.

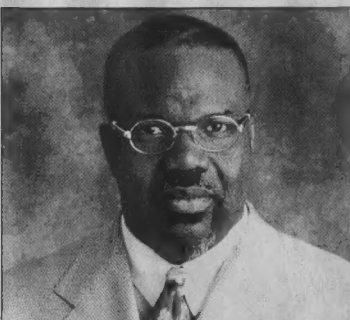
Other notable singing preachers includes former soul singer Joe Simon who became a pastor in the 1980s and has released a CD of sermons. New Orleans Bishop Paul Morton and Houston's Ed Montgomery also have gospel albums in the marketplace. Ironically, perhaps the most famous singing preacher, Rev. Al Green, hasn't had a new gospel album in years.

"Gospel music is most powerful when it is delivered as the Gospel," said Gilliam. "The early pioneers carried a passion built on integrity in their lives that enhanced their music ministry. Entertainment is like whipped cream. It's nice to cap off a great meal, but if you rely on it for sustenance you'll get sick. Enter the bishops. They are striking a chord with people because they represent the best of what Gospel music is all about. It is music that grows from a life grounded in the word of God. The bishops restore a spiritual depth to gospel music because music ministry is secondary to the preaching of the word."



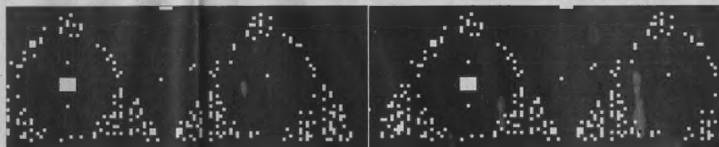
Ron Kenoly

Photo by Capital Entertainment



Bishop T.D. Jakes

File Photo



Bishop T.D. Jakes' first CD,

"Woman Thou Art Loosed"

based on his popular book, has been adapted into a traveling gospel play
Coming to New York's Apollo Theater

April 18-30

Local Briefs

IRVINGTON BOARD ELECTIONS SLATED

There are 10 candidates who have qualified for the Irving town election scheduled to take place on May 9. All four incumbents — D. Bilal Beasley, South Ward; Brian E. Coleman, East Ward; David Lyons, North Ward; and Joan Scott, West Ward — are seeking re-election. Only Beasley is running unopposed.

In the East Ward, Coleman is being challenged by Fred M. Bost, the husband of Irving Mayor Sara Bost. In the North Ward, Lyons is opposing local James E. Waller and Delia Velasquez. Waller is a township-based attorney who unsuccessfully ran for mayor in 1998, and Velasquez is also running for mayor in 1999. Velasquez is also currently a member of the Irving Public Library's Board of Trustees. In the West Ward, Scott is facing three challengers — Eloise McDaniel, president of the non-profit Irving Block Association; Jonathan John, the chairman of the Board of Adjustment; and R. Catherine Steele, a community activist, coach of the Golden Knights cheerleading squad and chairperson of the Irving Joint PTA.

MAYOR BOWSER HONORED AT BALL

EAST ORANGE—A star-studded lineup featuring Cissy Tyson, singing Gloria Lynne, of The Maytalls, New York; Orange, Paterson, Pleasantville, Trenton, Woodbridge, and Mount Pleasant. The mayor, Mayor Robert Bowser, was honored at a ball on April 7. The \$125-per-person "Spring Gala: The Year 2000" was held at 7 p.m. in the ballroom, Eagle House, West Orange. The event's honorary co-chairs include Newark Mayor Sharpe Johnson, Mayor Robert Bowser, Mayor McGraw, U.S. Senate candidate John Corzine, Essex County Democratic Executive Thomas G. Ganim, and Essex County Democratic Chairwoman Catherine Wills, and Essex County Clerk Bowser has been mayor of East Orange since 1998. He won the city's top political post in the 1990 general election. His term in office runs through Dec. 31 of next year.

CORZINE WEATHERS SLANDEROUS ATTACK

JERSEY CITY — Senate Candidate John Corzine and Sen. Frank Lautenberg held a press conference in Jersey City recently so the former Wall Street financier could apologize for any disparaging remarks he might have made regarding Italian. On March 30, Corzine apologized for such remarks after an Italian-American anti-defamation group called attention to his comments linking all Italians to organized crime, the news. Another press conference was held on April 3 to counter an alleged attempt by Michael Glimco, 36, of Jersey Democrat. Corzine and members of his election staff said Cino had made calls to the candidate's campaign office on March 29, threatening to "make 'more material,' about Corzine's remarks from the Italian public if he was not given a job in the campaign.

Cino was accused of making a phone call to the Corzine campaign office and leaving a message saying that he had "more material," he was thought it was in everyone's best interests and the interests of the Democratic Party to have that meeting. "He also said that call was the candidate's last chance to 'make 'more material,' about Corzine's remarks from the Italian public if he was not given a job in the campaign."

Corzine released details of the threats detailed phoned in by Cino. "On Friday evening, my wife Joanne received a threatening and blackmailing call from Mr. Cino," Corzine said. "He spoke to me at 11:17 p.m.," he called to Joanne for about 15 minutes. "I knew my candidacy represented a challenge to the old politics. But what happened on Friday went too far. It was outrageous to threaten my family, let alone my reputation."

Corzine said he is sending a message to all involved, including Cino, that he will not back down. "There will be no meeting (as requested by Cino on the voicemail Corzine played at the press conference) and I will not be intimidated or blackmailed with midnight threats or back room deals," he said. "I am not a coward."

Cino recently acknowledged that he had tried to get a job with Corzine's Senate campaign, but said he never tried to blackmail his way in. Cino said his phone calls were misinterpreted. He said he was only seeking to set up a meeting with Corzine to reconcile any differences they might have had because he did not get hired by the campaign.

High court supports poor, urban kids

ELIZABETH — The New Jersey state Supreme Court recently ruled that Gov. James Christie's administration's decision to limit the number of children in public school districts to three-and-four-year-old children in the hands of personnel in day care centers who provide formal education and instruction violated their 1988 decision in *Abbott v. Burke*.

In their ruling, the justices ordered the state to provide advanced preschool curriculum taught by certified teachers.

"Nineteen months ago, this court accepted the commitment made by the commissioner of education to undertake, in good faith, broad-based educational

reform in New Jersey's poor, urban school districts, yet once again we find that we must address these issues we thought were settled," said Chief Justice Deborah Porter in the court's ruling. "The programs that have been implemented do not conform to the proposals that were accepted by the court."

Porter said the court has been forced to conclude that the Department of Education's use of community care providers, staffed by uncertified teachers and governed by Department of Human Services day care standards, does not meet the court's requirements to establish quality preschool programs for three- and four-year-old children.

In its ruling, the court said it did not believe Education Commissioner David Hespe intended in "bad faith," but there was a "misunderstanding" about what they actually wanted done.

"In order for disadvantaged children to develop the language skills and discipline they need for later educational success, there must be educational content in their preschool experience," Porter said.

There are 30 Abbott districts in New Jersey. They include: Newark, Elizabeth, Jersey City, Plainfield, Paterson, Trenton, Camden, Atlantic City, Asbury Park, and almost every other major urban area in the state. It is also no coincidence that all the Abbott districts are, for the most part, populated by poor, black and Hispanic minorities.

Now, because of the court's latest ruling, tougher standards will immediately be applied to all new teachers in the districts. Anyone hired after April 17 will have to be a college graduate with a four-year degree and a certificate in preschool education.

Himmestein wants more for his kids in school

continued from page A1
know at the time he made his remarks, was that this election is the first time in five years an election for the board will be held. Now that he does, he is more determined to get involved.

"If we're going to elect someone, I need to know what they're about, who they are and what their pasts are, especially if they're going to judge somebody else in any type of way," he said. "That affects me a lot."

Himmestein's remarks are much at the ears of Newark Public Schools State District Superintendent Marion A. Bolden. She is encouraging parents to participate in the Newark Public Schools Advisory Board election on April 18.

"I urge parents and other citizens who are concerned about the education of Newark's children to familiarize themselves with information about this candidate is producing and with the issues that are pertinent to the Newark Public Schools, and to vote on April 18," she said.

"Parents want more say in their children's education and voting for members of the Advisory Board is an important part of that."

Local school boards set the rules for the curriculum and facilities, negotiate employee contracts, approve the hiring of educators and other staff, and oversee school district budgets. In addition, local school budgets are also voted on during school board elections.

School budgets are important because they represent the projected total expenses of operating a district from one year to another. The budgets encompass teachers' salaries, the cost of maintain-



Herbert Himmestein, center, believes the education of his niece, Nikita Holmes, 13, left, and daughter, Chastity, 4, as well as his other six children, is going hands-on in Newark's public schools.

ing or adding courses and curriculum, facilities maintenance and upkeep, and a variety of other costs and items.

In Newark, where three board positions will be available for three terms, 29 people have their names on the ballot. The city also had a budget of \$570 million for the 1999-2000 school year.

On April 18, polls throughout the city will be open from 2 to 9 p.m. They are the same polling places used in primary and general elections.

The directive in essence of the situation regarding the election is being supported by the Committee to Advocate for Newark's Children. The organization recently hosted an

Advisory Board Candidate Forum in Essex County College's Mary B. Burch Theatre, 303 University Avenue.

The forum was designed to provide Newark residents with an opportunity to learn about and hear the views from potential candidates vying to fill the three open seats of the nine-member Advisory Board.

Seventeen of the 29 candidates confirmed their participation in the forum. The list of attendees included: Elaine Aya Aquil, Terrence S. Baines, Maryam Bey, Patricia J. Bradford, Irene Daniels, Sharon Denise Davis, Jeffrey Diry, James Gaines, Steven Jacobs, Jo Ann Jones, Anasa Matt, Robert Robinson, Dana Rone, Ernest Turner, Abdul Shahid, James S. Williams, P. Varrillo, and Lev D. Zilberman.

Richard Roper, of the Roper Group, moderated the forum. The other 12 candidates are: Jeffrey Briscoe, Jeffrey Dykes, Jeffrey Gargum, Domingo Garcia, Jaime Gonzalez, Donna M. Jackson, LeRoy M. Mack, William Moore, Andrew Speight, Daphne Turner, Antonio J. Vagueiro, and Evelyn Williams.

"It's important for the parents of students in the district to find

Orange police

continued from page A1

According to Page, these changes are being made without the council's input or consultation.

Wactor reportedly said there are no plans to eliminate the vice squad. According to published reports in the *Star-Ledger*, he said the state Division of Criminal Justice is conducting a management study of the 119-member department at the city's request.

Wactor said nothing is going to happen on April 9. He believes he is reacting to an anonymous letter he received regarding the matter.

Lisa Love, the city attorney, reportedly said the issue was "being discussed behind closed doors," because it "concerns matters of security."

That is no comfort to Page, who said that anything the city needs more plainclothes vice squad officers, not less.

"My ward is swamped with drugs now," he said. "The dealers can spot a uniformed officer or radio car a mile away. People react to uniforms and stop doing what they were doing when they see them. The vice squad is our only lifeline in Orange. They're trained and react differently, and that's what we need."

In an unrelated matter, the council passed an ordinance restoring the number of deputy chiefs in the fire department from six to eight. A previous administration had eliminated two of the \$70,000 positions as a cost-saving measure.

The council also awarded a \$55,000 contract to Birdsell Engineering of Belmar for the removal of 11 underground storage tanks. The tanks no longer meet state and federal environmental standards.

out who the people are who are running for office," said Gabriella Morris, the chairperson of the CANG. "If you're concerned about children and education, and you should be, then the school board has a large impact on that."

Morris said the significance of the upcoming April 18 Advisory Board elections cannot be understated. She said it will mark the first time in five years that residents of the city of Newark will have an opportunity to elect representatives to the Newark Public Schools Advisory Board.

Morris said the board has nine members. She said as part of the state takeover as few years ago the power and structure of the district are now regulated by the state, and its guidelines are what determined what now is the time for direct elections.

"It speaks well that there are a number of people in Newark willing to serve in this capacity," she said. "It's important to find out who these candidates are and where their hearts are."

And there is no better time than the present to get involved. As reported in the *Star-Ledger*, Education Commissioner David Hespe inherited an estimated \$58 million budget gap in Newark schools four years into

the state's takeover of the district. After months of collecting documents and data, he turned over reams of department paper, announced executive steps, and came before a joint legislative hearing in February to take full responsibility for it.

Recently, he reported that an additional \$15 million shortfall has been discovered by state auditors. More importantly, there are signs that number could get larger as the probe into the district's finances proceeds.

That and other issues including early childhood education, school construction, implementation of a thorough and efficient model for education, curriculum reform, and other measures called for in the Abbott v. Burke New Jersey Supreme Court decision, are hot topics in this year's election for urban districts like Newark.

The Committee of Advocates for Newark's Children was established in 1996 as an independent voice for the educational needs of Newark's children. The committee is composed of over 30 business, education, non-profit, religious, and civic groups and strives to promote education reform and improve educational outcomes.

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Africa in America: Sisters empowering sisters

By Gilda Rogers
Staff Writer

The City of Newark and Union felt the mighty power of stately African women, as Rutgers University in Newark hosted a Women's Summit on March 30, that brought the First Lady of Ghana, Dr. Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings to its campus, along with delegates from the 31st December Women's Movement, while Kean University's Africana Studies Program played host to the Queen Mother of South Africa, Winnie Mandela, on April 3, at Wilkens Theater.

Rawlings was honored with a reception in the Robeson Campus Center, and the ladies of the 31st December Movement were honored with a reception by their African-American sisters at the Women In Support of the Million Man March (WISOMMM) Mansion in Newark.

Overall, all the women visiting from the Motherland addressed issues that centered on empowering women in Africa. The First Lady of Ghana's visit along with the 25 women from West Africa to New Jersey served as an educational and professional exchange, which included seminars on health, education, business and community development. Meetings with business and health care leaders led the agenda along with tours of educational, business and medical facilities.

Mandela, who was the keynote speaker at the National Political Conference of Black Women, which was held in Philadelphia, also made a stop at Kean to deliver a lecture on the



(From left to right): Winnie Mandela; Dr. Livingston Alexander, Kean University Provost of Student Affairs (seated); Tahiya Nyahuma, member of the National Political Conference of Black Women; Barbara Wheeler, Director of Africana Studies.

Photo by Pablo Tinio

state of affairs of women in her country. Dressed in Western attire, Mandela, who is a symbol of unbridled strength addressed an almost capacity filled Wilkens Theater. She stated that 25 percent of Parliament is compiled of

The First Lady of Ghana's visit along with the 25 women from West Africa to New Jersey served as an educational and professional exchange, which included seminars on health, education, business and community development.

women, but women who are the farmers of the land, in a sharecropping type of arrangement, are lagging far behind when it comes to empowerment. Mandela raised the point that if a man can have more than one wife, then women in South Africa should be entitled to more than one husband. Mandela, who is the

president of the African National Conference for Women, and former wife of Nelson Mandela, also interjected how the West has played a significant role in orchestrating the tribal wars that exist throughout the continent of Africa. She used Belgium as an example of the rift between the Tutsi and Hutu tribes. These are tribes that speak the same language and eat the same food. The division is a result of colonialism, which pit the two groups against each other by elevating one group over the other.

Rawlings, who graduated with honors from the University of Science and Technology in Ghana in 1972 with a degree in graphic design, has been instrumental in empowering over 3 million women in her country, many whom are members of the 31st December Women's Movement. Not only has she addressed issues in her country that center on inheritance rights, marital laws (polygamy), women owning businesses, and child care, but has mandated a date of 2010 for certain goals to be met. However, the organization has established almost 1,000 day care centers, which have empowered women from the bottom up. The organization assesses the needs of women across villages. While some women, who process shea nuts into shea nut butter cream, which is used as a body cream have formed a business relationship with "The Body Shop," a company based in the United Kingdom, with stores located in malls throughout this country. Palm oil has also been another resourceful product that has helped empower African women in Ghana.



First Lady of Ghana, Dr. Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings

Photo by William Frazier



The Delegation of the 31st December Women's Movement from Ghana.

Photo by William Frazier



WISOMMM members welcomed the delegation from Ghana with a reception at the WISOMMM mansion.

Photo by William Frazier



Amina Baraka attended the reception at the WISOMMM mansion.

Photo by William Frazier



Winnie Mandela strikes her famous pose and said to the crowd: "Amandla!" (Power!)

Photo by Pablo Tinio



Newark Mayor Sharpe James presents the First Lady of Ghana with a key to the city.

Photo by William Frazier



L-R Akiba Onque, Rejole, Yvonne Onque, and Lydia, at WISOMMM Mansion.

Photo by William Frazier



From left to right: Winnie Mandela; Dr. Livingston Alexander, Kean University Provost of Student Affairs; and Tahiya Nyahuma, National Political Conference of Black Women.

Photo by Pablo Tinio



WISOMMM Executive Director Fredrica Bey

Photo by William Frazier

CityLife

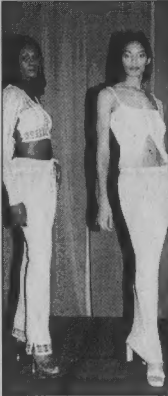
The Affair: Part II featuring Liggins, Hunter



GiGi Hunter

*Fashions
by
GiGi
Hunter*

Photos by Pablo Tinio



ATLANTA, GA — "The Affair," a dazzling display of fashion at its best, showcased some of the top designers in the game at the Westin Peachtree Plaza Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia, on March 25. In wanting to give each designer their props, City News is back with an encore issue, which features designs by GiGi Hunter from Los Angeles, California, and Anthony Liggins from the "ATL" as in Atlanta. If you thought last week's display was off-the-hook, well, this week is really coming at you.

Hunter, has tapped into a retro groove. She has taken knit with a crocheted look to another stratosphere. Long and lean, Hunter showcased two piece clingy sarong skirts with thigh-high splits and tops that appeared to reveal everything but showed little or nothing — now that's good. She sent a blinding array of hot pink, chartreuse and sunflower hues down the runway. Hunter's collection is breathtakingly feminine and appetizing; delicacies intentionally designed to appeal to the imagination — if you get the drift. Hunter's designs have graced the famous frames of Lynn Whitfield, Jasmine Guy and Jada Pinkett-Smith, to name a few.

Liggins, who has made his mark on creating the most novel

and sexy blouses you've ever seen, is not in the least bit limited when it comes to designing. A collection of clean, crisp lines that lend to a classic look definitely will transcend the test of time. He manages to weave whimsical with classic by hav-



Janice Combs, mother of Sean "Puffy" Combs accepts the TRI INC. Award.

ing fun with fabric through pattern design. You can't help but think ingenious when viewing Liggins' line of clothing which has been featured in "W," a trade publication and "Women's Wear Daily."

*Fashions
by
Anthony
Liggins*



Anthony Liggins



'The Affair'
The Westin Peachtree Plaza,
Atlanta, Georgia



WSOMMM Executive Director Fredrica Bay with host Tamika Riley.

A delicious sight to see: fashions by GiGi Hunter



Heartbeat Calendar

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12

JERSEY CITY - Jersey City State University presents "Children and Diabetes" For further information, call (201) 200-3423

NEW BRUNSWICK - St. Peter's University Hospital offers a support group about Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. For further information, call (800) 545-7437

EATONTOWN - A conference on tobacco control and prevention takes place at the Sheraton Hotel & Conference Center. For further information call (732) 387-0611

FRIDAY, APRIL 14

PRINCETON - The Princeton March of Dimes Child Abuse Prevention Month. For further information, call (609) 556-582 7000 ext 153

TUESDAY, APRIL 18

NEW BRUNSWICK - St. Peter's University Hospital sponsors a grandparent's class forum. For further information call (732) 746-8579

NEW BRUNSWICK - St. Peter's University Hospital offers a prenatal nutrition class. For further information call (732) 746-7530

NEWARK - The Sisters' Network presents an even-ryg with Dr. Padu. Holistic healer. For more information call (973) 297-1275

SATURDAY, APRIL 22

SPRINGFIELD - National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week. For further information contact, Mary Barlow at (973) 379-4535 ext. 314

TUESDAY, APRIL 25

NEW BRUNSWICK - Free weight control orientation program. Learn Weight Control Program in the conference room 2 at St. Peter's University Hospital at 7:00 p.m. For further information call (732) 745-8600 ext 6553

SUNDAY, APRIL 30

PINE BROOK - March of Dimes WalkAmerica 2000. A Community Wide Event. Volunteer participation is needed. For further information contact Margot Spidle at (973) 882-0700 ext. 27

TUESDAY, MAY 9

PARISPANY - The Alzheimer's Association, Northern New Jersey Chapter, will hold its Legacy Luncheon Golf Raffle Drawing at 7:00 PM at the Canoe Brook Country Club in Short Hills. Tickets will be purchased before the event by calling (973) 316-6676

THURSDAY, MAY 11

EAST WINDFELD - "Fad Diets" from 5 to 8 p.m. For further information, call (908) 554-9854

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17

NEW BRUNSWICK - Free lecture series scheduled to celebrate Older Americans Month. For further information contact Caro DeBelle at (732) 745-8600 ext 8670

SATURDAY, JUNE 3

PISCATAWAY - The lecture series, "The Health of Minorities in New Jersey: Part II: The Latino Experience," will be held. For more information, call the Office of Minority Health at (609) 292-6952

THURSDAY, JUNE 29

WESTFIELD - Herbs for Health? For further information, call (908) 654-9854

The benefits of eating locally grown food

Earthseed Organic Gardens

The benefits of locally grown foods can add value to your life. Locally grown foods help the body to adapt to seasonal changes, thus preventing seasonal imbalances such as colds or flu, as well as other serious illnesses.

Food also affects our ability to adapt to local climatic conditions which is important to our physical and emotional balance.

We can become more aware of our intuitive needs for foods by listening to our body and emotions. Local foods that are in season are more beneficial to your health than foods grown at great distances. Your climate, geographical location, activity level, and physiology determines your nutritional needs.

Research has shown that people of traditional cultures who eat locally grown whole grains, fresh vegetables, fruits and foods that are processed by traditional methods—such as drying and natural canning—have longer lives with better health. They experience significantly less chronic illnesses that lead to diseases such as cancer,

kidney ailments, heart ailments, respiratory illnesses and others.

In addition to the health benefits of locally grown and seasonal foods, the taste of the food is better because of its quality and freshness. In a northeastern urban city, our nutritional needs may vary from those who live in a southwestern desert climate.

We can assess where we live, what we do for a living, the food we eat and our present state of health to gain clues about the nature of our lives.

We can begin by acquiring bits of knowledge about these areas of our lives and note how we can use the knowledge to heal ourselves—Health Yourself.

This bulletin and other resources mentioned can provide us with information to help heal and maximize our health. Some of the best foods we can eat are in the form of complex carbohydrates, which are found in whole grains such as brown rice, whole wheat foods and vegetables. These are the type of energy foods that supply us with sustained energy.

When it becomes warm we seek refreshment. Summer



brings lighter eating and less cooking. Winter brings heavier eating and more thorough cooking. A winter diet in a northeastern climate zone suggest more root vegetables and seeds such as winter squashes, pumpkins, beets, carrots, sweet potatoes, pears, apples, grains, seeds, beans, and nuts.

There are also simple ways to cook and prepare these foods in harmony with our immediate needs, conditions, and taste

Depression and anxiety linked to hypertension

Psychosomatic Medicine
Journal of the American Psychosomatic Society

People who experience symptoms of depression or anxiety are at increased risk of developing hypertension, suggest the results of a two-decade study.

The increase in risk associated with depression or anxiety is similar among white women and all men, but is substantially higher among black women, according to Bruce S. Jonas, ScM, Ph.D., and James F. Lando, MD, MPH, of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The increased risk for depression or anxiety persisted even after controlling for other hypertension risk factors including: age, gender, race, education, smoking, alcohol use, baseline diastolic and systolic blood pressure, and body mass index. The increased risk observed among people with high levels of depression or anxiety

remained about the same even when the investigators further controlled for body mass index changes over time. The



increase in risk is comparable to a 10-point increase in baseline diastolic blood pressure or to a 10-point change in body mass index

Kessler therapy and rehabilitation center offers tips on sports training and injury prevention

The crack of a bat. The cheers of the crowd. Baseball and softball season is upon us. And with proper training, athletes of all ages and abilities can enjoy the game and avoid injury.

As Jerry Lewis, PT, Director of Rehabilitation Services, and Steve Quaglian, ATC, CSCS, at Kessler Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation, explained, baseball and softball are "total body" sports. Playing involves linking the body's kinetic chain, the arms, trunk and legs in continuous motion. For example, Lewis says, "when you pitch, the power begins in your legs, flows and

gets stronger through the trunk of your body and continues into your arm and fingers for the release of the ball."

Training needs to focus on total body strengthening and flexibility, with particular attention to back and abdominal muscles in order to avoid common injuries, notes Quaglian.

The most frequent injuries result from overuse. This condition generally affects the muscles, as in a strain, and/or the ligaments, a sprain, in the shoulder or elbow. Overuse injuries tend to start with acute symptoms of pain and soreness during or after a game and can progress

to a more chronic pain with any movement of the shoulder, elbow or hand.

Kessler Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation recommends the following steps to avoid such injuries:

Follow a total body conditioning/flexibility program in the pre- and off-seasons.

Proper warm-up or practice, warm-up properly. Stretch all parts of your body and toss the ball around easily.

Count down and limit the number of pitches thrown during a warm-up, practice or game. Be sure to include the infield and outfield throws in the count

Keep in mind that children should follow special guidelines. For example, 9-10 year olds should do no more than 125 pitches/throws per week, approximately 60 over two games, with at least three days between starts.

Work on biomechanics, the form and technique you use when pitching and throwing. Remember, it's the quality of your throwing delivery that predicts optimum performance, not the quantity of throws you make.

Never pitch or throw through pain. This will only worsen the condition. Listen to your body.

New Jersey fines HMOs more than \$400,000

New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services

TRENTON — Two HMOs have been fined more than \$400,000 by the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services and Banking and Insurance for a range of violations, including failure to promptly pay claims from health care providers.

Oxford Health Plans of New Jersey was fined \$275,500 and United Healthcare of New Jersey was fined \$127,400. The fines were outlined in consent orders signed by the HMOs and the departments. The two departments share responsibility for HMO oversight.

Both Oxford and United have corrected deficiencies that led to the fines, and have worked cooperatively with both departments in these investigations.

According to the consent orders, Oxford Health Plans failed to promptly pay claims from doctors and hospitals for services provided at various times in 1999, 1998 and 1997. Health and Senior Services found the prompt-pay deficiencies while investigating complaints from health care providers received in 1998 and 1999.

Banking and Insurance found prompt-pay deficiencies and unfair claims settlement practices while conducting an examination of Oxford's market conduct for the period between January 1, 1997 and May 22, 1998. The examination revealed that Oxford's claim payment problems were precipitated in part by the significant growth in enrollment during 1996 and the implementation of a new computer system used for processing claims.

Regulations in effect in 1998 required HMOs to pay "clean claims," those for which all paperwork is in order, within 60 days of receiving them. Before those regulations took effect, HMOs were subject to the Fair Trade Practices provisions which only require that payment be made promptly. Currently, HMOs must pay claims within 30 to 40 days, under new legislation that took effect in December 1999.

United Healthcare has submitted the required plan of correction. During an on-site visit last October, the department verified that United had put in place a quality improvement plan to prevent the problem from recurring.

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Music Reviews



Q-Tip Let's Ride (Columbia Records)

This next angle from Q-Tip's debut solo, "Amplified," is a nice single whose strength is based more on a catchy guitar-strung melody than the artist himself.

On this song, he is talking about riding his super-car, his ride, and talking to a female friend about enjoying the ride, chilling, and just enjoying themselves in this ride, creating new experiences for themselves.

Q-Tip's lyrics are not impressive on this piece, but the track provides a nice melody that distinguishes itself from the first single, "Breath & Stop."

However, for everyone holding their breath for this single should not anticipate anything more energizing than its predecessors.



Tamar Braxton Tamar (Dreamworks)

In interviews, Tamar Braxton said she once had a lot of slow songs in her album because she looked at herself as a ballad song.

And even though she went back and reworked the selection, that statement reigns true for this album.

On her debut solo album (she is best known for her stint with her sisters, the Braxtons, and being Toni Braxton's sister), she shines on most of the ballads on the album.

"You Don't Know" is a slow ballad that seems to demonstrate an easiness and comfort on Tamar's part, her vocal range is much freer and more expressive. Other slow songs exemplifying this are "Once Again" and "If You Don't Wanna Love Me."

On the more uptempo songs, the tracks provide some filler material to achieve that more diverse album feel, however, they do not give Tamar the freedom to sing what she feels like she does on the more slow tunes, thus, not making this only a good album, but a great one.

Upcoming music releases

- "Love and Basketball" Original Soundtrack Interscope
- "2069" 69 Boyz Interscope
- "Met a Mor Phic" Delvin D'Grate Max-Jadei member
- "My Name Is" Joe Jive
- "Fear of Flying" Mya Interscope
- "Live" Take 6 Reprise
- "In the Groove" Buddha FitzGerald Eula earliest live recordings from 1939

Sacrifice, commitment remain key to Jones' success

by Rob Williams Staff Writer

He slept in vans for it. Missed meals for it. Even lived day by day wondering where his money was coming from for it.

And when singer Glenn Jones looks back, he has no regrets about having to do all this for it.

"If you're not a headliner, that's the way it is. You have to make sacrifices," said Jones during a telephone interview.

"We [the other members of his former group] were so young, so there were dues we had to pay, but at the same time it was a lot of fun," said the songwriter.

The songwriter of hits like "Show Me," and "Here I Go Again" is having even more fun with the success of his last album, "It's Time," which was released in 1998, and various appearances before he starts production of his next album.

But before it was like this, Jones' singing roots were planted in his childhood days as a youth going to church.

"Being in the church, I was exposed to music a lot. I decided after a while I wanted to form a group. My friends made up the group," Jones said.

While attending church in his native Jacksonville, Florida home, he and his friends eventually found themselves singing for

Rev. James Cleveland, who gave Jones and the group, called the Modulations, their first deal on Cleveland's Savvy Records.

Even though the deal was not worth anything big, the experience was

"If you really want something, you got to be willing to pay the price," said Jones of his experience sleeping in vans, and going hungry while on tour "But just being exposed to people at that level, being between 30 years of experience, and being around all that greatness, it was worth it."

Eventually Jones found himself having that familiar itch as a gospel singer to crossover into the R&B market and finally recorded his first R&B song with Norman Connors in 1974 called "Melancholy Fire."

"When I was doing gospel, the stuff I was writing was very contemporary, and I wanted to hit my music at a certain level. When I met Norman, he gave me the opportunity to do it [record R&B], and I did it," Jones said.

After that success, Jones was ready to do his own album, and in 1983 debuted with "Finesse," which included the hit "Show Me," his first top ten song (which charted at No. 2).

"It was great," said Jones recalling his excitement when he first charted in the top ten. "It was my first time having a record it was exciting."

Adding to the excitement was

the fact that when he first heard it, it came right after "You Give Good Love," sung by another rising star, Whitney Houston.

"I felt I was on my way. I was getting the attention and the visibility people get when they have hit records," Jones said. Just as Jones was making himself known on the R&B scene, he decided to conquer another artform: theatre. Jones was offered the chance to perform in the Broadway show, "Sing, Mahalia, Sing," but did not find the freedom of going different places as he had in music.

"The concert thing is more spontaneous, and is different every night. Theater is about the script. When you are doing concerts, sometimes you might feel the energy from the crowd and change a song," said Jones.

"I like the freedom of going different places, meeting different people."

Jones eventually returned to music with a duet with Dionne Warwick, who heard about Jones at a party and recorded the song at Burt Bacharach's Seventh Ave. New York apartment. The song, "A FINDER of Lost Loves," became known as the theme song to the show of the same name.

Soon, Jones found himself in the studio again, producing as well as singing for the first time. That album, released on Atlantic Records (whose labels included at that time Jody Watley, and Belle



Glenn Jones

Photo courtesy of SAR Entertainment

Winnans, featured the hit, "Here I Go Again."

But just like many artists before and after him (Belle Winans, and The Blackground Entertainment family, which included Aaliyah, Timbaland and Maseo, to name a few), Jones left Atlantic Records after three years in 1995, and later signed with SAR Entertainment, who he says has given him more freedom.

"I've been blessed to be with a company that has given me this much freedom," said Jones, who lives in South Jersey. "I don't have to wait five weeks to talk with the president of my record

label."

Also sharing in his freedom is his wife, Gunobia, a singer who he met when he was doing gospel, and who has sung background on most of his albums. The two married in July eight years ago and have a son also named Glenn, who is eight.

Having this love from his family and the love of music is what Jones credits with his longevity in his career.

"The fact is that I love what I do and have a never say die attitude," Jones said. "I definitely have a great respect and a great love for it."

Rapper wants gun and bribery charges dropped

NEW YORK (AP) — A lawyer for Sean "Puffy" Combs has asked a judge to dismiss gun and bribery charges filed against the rapper in the aftermath of a nightclub shooting, or to try him separately from other defendants.

The charges stem from a shooting at a Times Square nightclub Dec. 27 when a man allegedly threw money in Combs' face. "Shyne" Barrow, a Combs protégé, is accused of shooting three people during the dispute. Another co-defendant is Combs' bodyguard, Anthony Jones.

Combs' lawyer, Benjamin Braffman, said Friday that the rap mogul was unaware that a gun was on the front floor of the Lincoln Navigator in which he and actress Jennifer Lopez fled the club. He noted that the couple sat in the rear.

Braffman also said the 30-year-old Combs, who was on \$30,000 bail, and Lopez, who was not charged, arrived at the club in other cars.

Combs' lawyer, Benjamin Braffman, said Friday that the rap mogul was unaware that a gun was on the front floor of the Lincoln Navigator in which he and actress Jennifer Lopez fled the club. He noted that the couple sat in the rear.

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Sean "Puffy" Combs

Judge rules in favor of Dr. Dre in contract dispute

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A judge has ruled in favor of Dr. Dre in a dispute over a 1991 contract with a music industry executive, calling the deal "unconscionably unfair" to the rapper.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Malcolm Mackey said the statute of limitations had run out on the contract, making music mogul Dick Griffey attempt to bring any damage claims against the singer a moot point.

Dr. Dre, who was born

Andre Young, says he never signed the contract, in which he supposedly agreed to give Griffey 25 percent of his profits between 1991 and 1993.

In return, Griffey agreed to serve as the singer's mentor.

Judge Mackey said the contract was grossly unfair to Young and out of line with standard entertainment industry contracts.

He declined to elaborate on his decision, saying the information was in the official record.

MUSIC NOTES

Cash alters Supremes "Reunion" plans

All the excitement behind the Supremes reunion can now come to an end, as the reunion tour will take place without a



Diana Ross

reunion of core of the group. After months of haggling over money, Diana Ross has dropped Mary Wilson and Cindy Birdsong (who took the place of Florence Ballard after she left the group) in place of Scherrie Payne and Linda Laurence, who joined the group after Ross left in 1969.

The "Return to Love" tour will begin some time in June and run until September.

Reportedly, Ross demanded a \$15-20 million payment and offered Wilson and Birdsong around \$3 million each.

Wilson said in a USA Today interview that she hopes to still be involved.

Mos Def, Pharcyde to perform benefit concert for cancer research

Rappers Mos Def and The Pharcyde are scheduled to perform at the Boarding for Breast Cancer benefit concert this April 15 in Lake Tahoe, California.

The concert is part of the



Mos Def

Boarding for Breast Cancer's 13th Annual Snowboard Music Festival, which will be hosted by for MTV VJ Kennedy at the Sierra-A-Tahoe resort.

The festival will consist of educational and awareness exhibits about breast cancer and feature some of the top snowboard professional athletes.

Boyz II Men to release first album in three years

After a three-year break from the limelight, Boyz II Men are

coming back with the release of their new album, "NateMike Shawn And Wan," scheduled to be released in September.

To bring hype to the project, the group has been making appearances at various sports arena. Included in their plans was the singing of the national anthem on April 2 at the NCAA Women's Basketball Championship game, and at the New York Mets home opener against the San Diego Padres.

In addition to the group project, Wanya Morris issued his first solo album, "Millennium Renaissance," last month as the first single from the "NateMikeShawn And Wan" album is scheduled for a June release.

Rapper stabbed outside studio

Rapper 50 Cent was recently stabbed by a group of men said to be in their early twenties, according to MTV Online, outside of the Hit Factory studio on West 54th Street in New York City.

50 Cent, along with some of his friends, suffered wounds from the attack. Two of the men, Marvin Bernard, 21, and Gicari Rondeau, 24, were listed in seri-



Boyz II Men

ous condition at Manhattan's Roosevelt Hospital.

Producer Peter "Panic" Pottinger refused medical attention, and 50 Cent went to another hospital. All men were listed in stable condition.

50 Cent, whose real name is Curtis Jackson, has obtained lawyer Tom Puccio, who represented Lance (Lao) Rivera and Steve Stout, both of whom allegedly assisted by Jay-Z and Sean "Puffy" Combs respectively.

Narrowing down any enemies might prove to be a large task, since Jackson is believed to have many foes. On his album, he has made comments about Jay-Z, and an anonymous voice on Ghostface Killah's album predicted the incident.

Jackson is said to have had an alleged incident with Ja Rule in Atlanta over a year ago, according to the MTV Online report, but no suspects have been named.

LL Cool J to host Nick Awards

Rapper LL Cool J is scheduled to host the Nickelodeon's 13th Annual Kids' Choice Awards April 15 at the Holly-

wood Bowl in Los Angeles.

LL Cool J, along with Rosie O'Donnell, are set to co-host the ceremony with nominations held by Will Smith, Jennifer Lopez, Brandy, and Tyrese.

The show will air April 15 at 8 p.m. ET/PT.

Phil Collins sues members of Earth, Wind, & Fire

Phil Collins has filed a suit against two members of Earth, Wind, & Fire in the London court system.

Louis Satterfield and



Earth, Wind & Fire

Rahmlee Michael Davis, better known as the Phoenix Horns of the group, were featured on Collins' solo albums. Some of the tracks included "Sussudio" and "I Missed Again."

Collins claims he overpaid them for their work on the "Serious HitsLive" album and that their royalties should only come from the songs they worked on and not the entire album.

Collins alleged he overpaid the two \$400,000. Davis and Satterfield said that the money is rightfully theirs, due to the fact that the contract called for 0.5 percent royalties.

Collins said that after six years, the royalties were cut off. The Society of Black Lawyers is defending Satterfield and Davis.

Billboard

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12

NEW BRUNSWICK - The New York City Opera Company performs "The Barber of Seville." For tickets, call (732) 249-8226.

THURSDAY, APRIL 13

NEW YORK - Cyrus Chestnut & Reginald Veal, piano & bass duets. Tickets not & Veal will be appearing at the Stanley H. Kaplan Penthouse. Tickets are \$40.00. For further information, call Jazz at Lincoln Center at (212) 675-5244, from 11 a.m. — 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

NEWARK - Ernestine Anderson and Gen Alton concerts live on WBOG Jazz 88.3 FM.

FRIDAY, APRIL 14

NEW BRUNSWICK - The State Theatre presents Nigel Kennedy and the Barbican Chamber Orchestra. For information, call (732) 246-7469.

SATURDAY, APRIL 15

NEW YORK - Lincoln Center presents "Duets On the Hudson." Tickets are \$40.00. For further information, call Jazz at Lincoln Center at (212) 675-5244, 11 a.m. — 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

NEWARK - "The Barber of Seville" comes to NJPAC. Call (888) GO-NJPAC.

NEWARK - WBOG/88.3 FM presents a jazz concert for children. At NJPAC. Call (732) 297-0587.

SATURDAY, APRIL 15

RAHWAY - Union County Arts Center presents Three Dog Night performing at the Union County Arts Center at 8:00 p.m. For further information, call (732) 499-8226.

THROUGH SUNDAY, APRIL 16

NEW BRUNSWICK - Crossroads Theatre Company presents the play "Venice." For ticket information, call (732) 249-5550.

NEWARK - The New Jersey Performing Arts Center hosts pianist Awadagin Pratt. For more information, call (888) GO-NJPAC.

THROUGH SUNDAY, APRIL 16

PRINCETON - McCarter Theatre presents "The Cherry Orchard." Call (609) 259-6500.

NEWARK - Acclaimed pianist Awadagin Pratt returns to NJPAC at 2:00 in the Prudential Hall. For further information, contact Shelley Roberts at (973) 297-5554.

THROUGH FRIDAY, APRIL 21

NEWARK - Allira, A Center for Contemporary Art presents the Enrage 2000 Exhibition. Call (973) 643-6677.

THROUGH SATURDAY, APRIL 22

MONTCLAIR - The 12 Miles West Theatre Company presents the world premiere of "The Appointment." For information, call (973) 746-7181.

MONDAY, MAY 1

NEWARK - WBOG/88.3 FM presents Ernestine Anderson and Gen Alton Concerts live at 7:30 p.m. For further information, contact Amy Reed at (973) 624-8880, ext. 268.

SATURDAY, MAY 6

NEWARK - WBOG/88.3 FM Children's Jazz Concert series performs at NJPAC. All concerts begin at 12:30 p.m. To reserve your seat or for more information, call (973) 297-0587.

SATURDAY, MAY 6

PARAMUS - Bergen Community College's Performing Arts series presents New Orleans Klezmer All-Stars premiering at 8:00 p.m. For further information, call (201) 447-7200.

SATURDAY, MAY 6

RAHWAY - Appearing at the Union County Arts Center is Patti LaBelle at 8:00 p.m. For further information, call (732) 499-8226.

SATURDAY, MAY 13

NEWARK - NJPAC - Jazz for Teens. All times start at 12:30 PM. For further information, call 973-297-0587.

NEWARK - WBOG/88.3 FM presents A Tribute to Milt Jackson, featuring Bobby Hutcherson live at the NJPAC, at 7:00 p.m. For further information, contact Amy Reed at (973) 624-8880, ext. 268.

THURSDAY, JUNE 8

NEWARK - WBOG/88.3 FM presents Randy Weston live from the Priory, at 9:00 p.m. For further information, contact Amy Reed at (973) 624-8880, ext. 268.

SUNDAY, JUNE 11

NEW YORK - Hinds Sisters Trio to present a concert in Alice Tully Hall at 3 p.m. For further information call 212-496-9418.

MILLBURN - Appearing at the Debra Mill Playhouse will be Debbie Reynolds. The show time is at 8:00 p.m. For further information, call (973) 378-4343.

New actor brings 'real life' experience to drama

By Rob Williams
Staff Writer

First Baltimore gave us Charles S. Dutton, star of "Roc" and an acclaimed director. Next, Dru Hill 'blew up' to put Baltimore's stamp on entertainment.

Now the city can look to another actor to bring pride to a growing legacy of native actors in the form of Derren Fuentès, who makes his acting debut in the HBO miniseries, "The Corner," directed by Dutton and starring T.K. Carter and Rhonda Alexander, with Fuentès playing a prominent supporting role.

The miniseries is the tale, based on a true story, of the McCullough family, who live in Baltimore and focuses on the effects of drugs on the family. Fuentès portrays one of the narcotics officers who regularly interacts with members of the McCullough family and arrests one of the main characters.

For Fuentès, playing the part of Officer Tucker was not foreign to him, since it is the role he plays in real life as a detective with the Baltimore Police Department. In addition, Fuentès was also able to draw on the experience he had with the

actual McCullough family, who he interacted with as a narcotics officer before his recent promotion to another unit.

"I know the main character. I have been involved with him as far as the streets are concerned. In fact, he (Diondre McCullough) came to the set and had some part in the actual filming," said Fuentès.

Fuentès, 28, describes the film as an observation of the transition from how McCullough watched his family become involved with drugs, to his experience as a drug dealer, then a user, and finally getting his life back together.

"It made the film more real to me than to someone who did not know him," Fuentès said.

Also making his first filming experience something to remember was the cast he worked with which included Dutton, Alexander, Carter, Sean Nelson, and Glenn Plummer.

"It was an awesome feeling. It is really hard to describe. I felt privileged to work with veteran actors. It felt more like a reunion of friends and family instead of a job," Fuentès said.

Fuentès also made an impression on members of the



Fuentès

File photo

cast, including Dutton.

"He (Dutton) told me that I was doing a really great job and was quite surprised that a new person was doing as well as I did," Fuentès said.

Part of the surprise might also come from the fact that Fuentès was not originally audi-

tioning for his role. He appeared at a casting call for extras for the movie and he was picked from the crowd to read for the more important role.

"I went down to be cast as an extra, and the casting director, Pat Duran, brought out a script for me to read. I did a screen test, and it was shown to the producer. They liked what they saw and asked if I would like to participate in a principal role," Fuentès said.

The production, which started in August, is said to be HBO's biggest project for this year.

The actor and detective is also a model, and has been recently featured in Fierro Magazine, Black Women Magazine, Black Men Magazine, Elegance, and is a regularly featured model of photographer Will Brent. Fuentès has also been planning a calendar.

To add to his busy schedule, Fuentès is also the father of three children: Shadeja, 10; Keyon, 7; and Jasmine, 3.

"If there is ever any inspiration to keep on and strive for the best, it is when a father looks at his children," said Fuentès of his children.

So whether he is Fuentès the

father, police detective, model, or actor, he says something he learned from his three year stint in the military is what has allowed him to be successful.

"When you believe in yourself and what you do, you get the job done. I never sat back to wonder how I got it done. I just know that I just kept doing," Fuentès said.

"When you believe in yourself and what you do, you get the job done. I never sat back to wonder how I got it done. I just know that I just kept doing."
— Fuentès

'Venice,' 'The Cherry Orchard,' coming to NJ stage

Avery Brooks, recently known for "Cedar House Rules" and the Tony-Award winning Jane Alexander will star in "The Cherry Orchard," a play about a cherry orchard that stands on the auction block, and the hopes, fears, and fantasies of an entire generation rest with its fate. The play is running through April 15 at the McCarter Theatre in Trenton. For more information at (609) 258-2787.

Also playing is "Venice," at the Crossroads Theatre Company in New Brunswick. This new play, written by Kathleen McGhee-Anderson, is about two families — one black, one white — in the Venice section of Los Angeles who are torn by gang violence, the past, and prejudice. The play will run through April 16 at the Crossroads Theatre. For more information, call (732) 249-1861.



Venice, playing at the Crossroads Theatre Company

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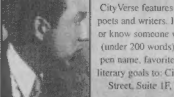


Zoe Anglesley (editor) Listen Up! (One World/Ballantine)

This book could not have been more appropriately titled. In the growing emergence of spoken word poetry in today's forums,

this book is an electrifying collage of today's most contemporary and talented artists in spoken word poetry today, like Willie Perdomo (featured in Nuyorican Poets Cafe Live and in PBS specials), Tracie Morris (Nuyorican Poets Cafe Grand Slam Champion), Saul Williams, best known for his movie, "Slam," and Carl Hancock Rux, who was named The New York Times award-winning artist.

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CityVerse features the works of aspiring poets and writers. If you have some work or know someone who does, send entries (under 200 words) with your full name, pen name, favorite writer and book, and literary goals to CityVerse, 111 Malberry Street, Suite 1F, Newark, NJ 07102.

Day after day, you are on my mind.
I think of you, with the sense of knowing you are mine.
No words can express how I feel.
Since your love came in and refilled my life with something special, so right like deep into the night.
I can't sleep, so I seek, seek
Your words are life, I was slowly dying.
You gave me breath, oh something happened to me.
I wanted to cry, SCREAM at the top of my lungs.
I LOVE YOU JESUS. I LOVE YOU.
Could it be, me praising God of has my fantasy gotten the best of me.
As time passed, I wanted Him more and more.
I prayed and read His word. I was full.
Full of life, your peace
My time had come, to die, die to self,

Dying to Self

by Deirdra L. Williams

Don't make me call the fashion police!

The Nearly New Thrift Shop



Designer Isaac Mizrahi silk taffeta blouse, which could be priced at \$200, sold at the Nearly New Thrift Shop in Red Bank for \$15.

Photo by Gilda Rogers

Annie Sez



Tahari suit, silk shantung at the end of winter season sale, \$79.99 regular price, on sale for 70% off, which is equal to \$54.

Photo by Gilda Rogers

Value City



Traditional double-breasted blazer with a Forenza label found at The Limited can be purchased at Value City for \$3.99. This style of jacket would enhance any skirt or pants to make for a polished, professional look.

Photo by Gilda Rogers

Welfare-To-Work mothers learn how to become fashion savvy

By Gilda Rogers
Staff Writer

JERSEY CITY — "I'm able to get up in the morning," said Rosetta, who is a participant in the Urban League Welfare-to-Work Program, which helps welfare recipients prepare themselves for a whole new lifestyle — work. Rosetta confessed that prior to coming to the program in Jersey City, she often did not greet the world until around noon.

Last week, I spent the most rewarding time with the 17 women who participated in that day's program by conducting a fashion and style seminar. We're all on a budget, as I explained to them, therefore, under no circumstances, not unless it's your birthday or something or maybe you hit the lottery, should you

conducted — with both of us together, SHUT-UP — the seminar was off-the-hook.

But back to the style thing. I explained to these ladies, style is like your very own fingerprint, unique, there is not another one like it in the world and this is how they should approach dressing.

So, being the fashion and style maven that I am, with the credentials to prove it — I hold a fashion buying and merchandising degree and have dressed the windows of some of our most highly acclaimed department and women specialty stores, prior to becoming a journalist — I do know the rules and regulations of fashion and when to call the fashion police. Therefore, it was no problem for me to jump right into things.

Your attire should always be classic/contingent which translates into looking good, with a tinge of trendy just to update your wardrobe. Put your money into accessories (scarves, nice handbags, a few funky hats, some nice costume jewelry). Shoes and boots are very important — a plain pair of jeans with a sweater hooked up with a bangin' pair of shoes or boots and a fierce hat will make the difference in an outfit. Outerwear is also very important, invest in a good classic coat (camel hair or a shetland gray wool).

Now to the fun part, clothes. We all like name brands and I don't mean K-Mart's Jacqueline Smith. Real name brands like Calvin Klein, Donna Karan, Isaac Mizrahi (back-in-the-day, I lived in Willie Wear by the late black designer Willie Smith), you get the picture. These types of designers represent clean and sharp with the latter (Mizrahi) adding a little whimsy to his designs for a more fun look, but really quite wearable. Then there are name brand manufacturing houses like Tahari and Barami, along with quality stores such as

Anne Taylor, Annie Sez (one of my favorites) Daffy Dams (which started out as a John's Bargain type store on Dickinson Street in Elizabeth) and The Gap. They all spell quality and impeccable design, which you do not have to pay an arm and a leg for.

The best time to shop is at the end of each season.

For instance, at Annie Sez, at the end of February and during the beginning of March you can get up to 70 percent off on merchandise. In the rear of Daffy Dams, there is a department called "Cheap Thrills" — and you'll be thrilled to know some of the items back there bear design-



Participants of the Jersey City Urban League's Welfare-to-Work program were given a dose of how to become fashion-savvy shoppers and a boost of self-confidence from the Face 2 Face program of TRI INC. out of Jersey City.

Photo by Gilda Rogers

er name labels at shockingly low prices. Oh, and one of my favorite places these days is Value City or

Well, by the time, I finished with the ladies from the Welfare-to-Work Program, I had them ready to run to one of the above mentioned stores to cash in on some mad bargains knowing that when they go on a job interview they'll be looking good.

Valley Fair, same difference. This store is to be believed; if you haven't been to one, go immediately (Paramus, Irvington, Ocean, Manalapan). It's a family department store with name brand stuff (Liz Claiborne, Harve Bernard, Limited) and a housewares department to beat the band. I took a trip there recently and bought myself four lovely spring blazers — \$39.99 each by Forenza, a label the Limited used to carry years ago, but the blazers are not the least bit outdated. The store specializes in buyouts.

Well by the time, I finished with the ladies from the Welfare-to-Work Program, I had them ready to run to one of the above mentioned stores to cash in on

some mad bargains knowing that when they go on a job interview they'll be looking good. Overall it was a fun day for all. I got to share my fashion knowledge with a group of women that most people give little thought to. They appreciated what I had to say and I left knowing that I had made their day. Helping others always makes me feel good.

Hey Lynn, you better work that scarf girl! Talk to you soon. Name your good deed for the day and mail it to City News Good Deeds 111 Mulberry Street, Suite 1F, Newark, New Jersey, 07102, and we'll get it in the newspaper for you. I hope you have some photos to go along with your good deed and if you do — send them too.

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Newark, N.J. 07102

LEGAL SERVICES

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Renne Steinberg
PUBLIC INTEREST LAW
CENTER OF NEW JERSEY
853 McCarter Highway
Newark, NJ 07102
(973) 642-8700 or (973) 642-8719

Dennis C. Hayes
Brentwood, TN
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE
4050 Mt. Hope Drive
Birmingham, MD 21215
(410) 486-9181 or (410) 486-6168

Attorneys for Plaintiffs, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the New Jersey State Conference of Branches, NAACP, ANAACP, Ford, Anthony Graves, Frank Gregory, Raun Hall, Antonio Mendez, Jr., Robert Outman, and Ryan Marsh

John Olin Borg
Lawrence S. Lullberg
QIBSONS, DEL DO, LALAN,
GRIFFIN & VECCHIONE
P.C.
One Park Plaza
Newark, New Jersey 07102-5487
(973) 686-5000

Richard J. Teymourt
LAWYERS COMMITTEE FOR
CIVIL RIGHTS UNDER LAW
141 New York Avenue N.W.
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 662-8600 or (202) 662-8300

Attorneys for Plaintiffs, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the New Jersey State Conference of Branches, NAACP, ANAACP, Ford, Anthony Graves, Frank Gregory, Raun Hall, Antonio Mendez, Jr., Robert Outman, and Ryan Marsh

**THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE
THE NEW JERSEY STATE CONFERENCE
OF BRANCHES, NAACP, ANAACP, FORD,
ANTHONY GRAVES, FRANK GREGORY,
RAUN HALL, ANTONIO MENDEZ, JAMAL
JOYNER, ERIC WILLIAMS, ROBERT GIZ
MAN, AND RAIN MARSH, on behalf of
themselves and all persons similarly situated,
Plaintiffs,**

vs.

**THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY, DEFENDANT
IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS SAFETY, DIVISION OF
STATE POLICE.**

Defendant

NOTICE OF PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF THIS LAWSUIT

To: (A) All unsuccessful African-American and Hispanic applicants for entry-level jobs as State Troopers who previously applied for such positions in the 114th through 118th State Police Academy classes, and who are currently applicants for the 119th or 120th State Police Academy classes; or who applied for such positions in the future; and (B) All African-American and Hispanic persons who have been prevented or discouraged from applying for entry-level jobs as State Troopers since January 1993 because of the defendant's college requirement for such positions, or who are currently prevented or discouraged from applying for such positions because of such requirement, or who will be prevented or discouraged from applying for such positions because of any educational requirement on such high school.

The African-American and Hispanic persons who personally filed or joined the lawsuit (the "plaintiffs") have filed this lawsuit to challenge the hiring process of the New Jersey Division of State Police (the "State Police") regarding entry-level State Troopers. In particular, plaintiffs challenge the defendant's use of the Law Enforcement Candidates Recruit (LECR), the defendant's educational requirements, and the defendant's recruiting practices. The lawsuit claims that the defendant's use of the LECR and its educational requirements is discriminatory on the basis of race and ethnicity in violation of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination. The State Police denies the allegations of racial discrimination and states that its hiring process is based on merit and that it has no educational requirements for entry-level jobs. The plaintiffs and the defendant have agreed to settle this lawsuit without a trial. The settlement will not take effect until the lawsuit is dismissed by the court. The settlement is subject to the approval of the court.

The following is a summary of the most important terms of the proposed settlement:

a) The State Police will make substantial changes in its recruitment program, to reflect the diversity of the qualified applicant pool. If these changes are not effective in substantially achieving that diversity for any class, the settlement will apply to the class of applicants in the recruitment program.

b) Education. Paragraphs 12, 13 and 14 of the proposed Consent Order state:

12. Prior to 1993, State Troopers were only required to have a high school education. Beginning in January 1993, the State Police began to require a college degree for entry-level jobs. This requirement was applied to all applicants, regardless of race or ethnicity. The State Police has agreed to provide a waiver of this requirement for applicants who are African-American or Hispanic and who have not completed a college degree by the time they are hired. The State Police has agreed to provide a waiver of this requirement for applicants who are African-American or Hispanic and who have not completed a college degree by the time they are hired. The State Police has agreed to provide a waiver of this requirement for applicants who are African-American or Hispanic and who have not completed a college degree by the time they are hired.

13. For three years after the preliminary approval of the settlement, the State Police will not use a four-year college degree requirement on an exclusive basis. But will use the following requirement: either (1) a four-year college degree requirement on an exclusive basis, or (2) a college degree requirement on a non-exclusive basis. The State Police has agreed to provide a waiver of this requirement for applicants who are African-American or Hispanic and who have not completed a college degree by the time they are hired. The State Police has agreed to provide a waiver of this requirement for applicants who are African-American or Hispanic and who have not completed a college degree by the time they are hired. The State Police has agreed to provide a waiver of this requirement for applicants who are African-American or Hispanic and who have not completed a college degree by the time they are hired.

14. The State Police will be free to employ a four-year college degree requirement on an exclusive basis when, after three years of recruitment, the State Police demonstrates that it has been successful in recruiting minority applicants to State Troopers at least equal to the number of white applicants. The State Police has agreed to provide a waiver of this requirement for applicants who are African-American or Hispanic and who have not completed a college degree by the time they are hired. The State Police has agreed to provide a waiver of this requirement for applicants who are African-American or Hispanic and who have not completed a college degree by the time they are hired. The State Police has agreed to provide a waiver of this requirement for applicants who are African-American or Hispanic and who have not completed a college degree by the time they are hired.

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABLE
SERVICES
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF
HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES
HUMAN SERVICES
Availability of Grant Funds**

Title of Grant: Grants-In-Aid General Fund

Title notice that, in compliance with N.J.S.A. 26: 14- 34, 34- 35 and 34- 36 the Department of Human Services, Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD), hereby announces the availability of the following grant program:

A. Name of Program: Community Therapeutic Services identified as the "Integrated Therapeutic Network" (ITN) for Fiscal Year 2001.

B. Purpose: To provide community health, mental health, and social services including occupational, physical and speech therapies as well as psychological and social services. The grant program is designed to serve consumers over age 21 living in the community. Services consist of assessment and evaluation, establishment of needs, goals and priorities, provision of direct and consultative therapies, and training of staff. There will be provided a range of services including an integrated approach involving independent individuals and staff. Services will include daywork program and other community sites throughout the state.

C. Amount of available funding for the program: A total of approximately \$6.5 million will be available.

selection device other than the LECR which the State Police used to encourage to use by the U.S. Department of Justice and which it had to use in the 114th through 118th classes of the LECR. The State Police has agreed to provide a waiver of this requirement for applicants who are African-American or Hispanic and who have not completed a college degree by the time they are hired. The State Police has agreed to provide a waiver of this requirement for applicants who are African-American or Hispanic and who have not completed a college degree by the time they are hired. The State Police has agreed to provide a waiver of this requirement for applicants who are African-American or Hispanic and who have not completed a college degree by the time they are hired.

Attorneys for Plaintiffs, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the New Jersey State Conference of Branches, NAACP, ANAACP, Ford, Anthony Graves, Frank Gregory, Raun Hall, Antonio Mendez, Jr., Robert Outman, and Ryan Marsh

**THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE
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Copies are available directly at the following location:

**Division of State Police
Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative
Action Office
300 West Tower
West Tower, Newark, New Jersey 08102-0068**

You may also write to the Division of State Police at the above address to request a copy of the Consent Order by providing the name of the case and your name and complete mailing address. The complete text of the Consent Order is also available at www.njipo.org.

Before the Consent Order goes into effect, the Court will consider any objections that are filed by the date of the hearing on the objections shall be held on May 15, 2000, at 2:00 p.m. in Courtroom 3D, at 200 p.m. Mercer County Court Building, 175 South Broad Street, Trenton, New Jersey.

Any objections will be considered without regard to whether the objector appears at the hearing. In the event that no objections are filed by the deadline, the proposed Consent Order shall stand without further Order of the Court as finally approved. If the person to whom the notice was sent is deceased, a representative of the estate or relative may submit objections to the executed Consent Order.

If you have any questions, you may call Assistant Attorney General Allen E. Accurso at (609) 292-2800 or (609) 292-2855, David L. Rose at (609) 292-2855, Lee Costa-Bergen at (973) 589-5400, Ramon S. Sanguinetti at (973) 642-8700 or (973) 642-8719, or (410) 486-9181. Mailing hours: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. DO NOT CALL THE COURT OR THE CLERK OF THE COURT.

NEL H. SHUSTER, J.S.C.
\$951.39

**PUBLIC NOTICE
RAHWAY HOUSING AUTHORITY
"REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS"**

The Housing Authority of the City of Rahway is soliciting proposals for "Accounting Services" for the period July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2001.

Interested firms may obtain a copy of the specifications which provide detailed information and requirements for the Accounting Services at the Housing Authority's Administrative Office located at 185 E. Grand Ave., Rahway, NJ between the hours of 8:30 AM and 3:30 PM, Mon. through Fri. (excluding holidays). (732) 499-0068.

The deadline for receipt of the proposals is May 16, 2000, no later than 2:00 PM.

**RAHWAY HOUSING AUTHORITY
KENNETH PUSKO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
\$61.54**

**PUBLIC NOTICE
RAHWAY HOUSING AUTHORITY
"REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS"**

The Housing Authority of the City of Rahway is soliciting proposals for "Legal Services" for the period July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2001.

Interested firms may obtain a copy of the specifications which provide detailed information and requirements for the Legal Services at the Housing Authority's Administrative Office located at 185 E. Grand Ave., Rahway, NJ between the hours of 8:30 AM and 3:30 PM, Mon. through Fri. (excluding holidays). (732) 499-0068.

The deadline for receipt of the proposals is May 16, 2000, no later than 2:00 PM.

**RAHWAY HOUSING AUTHORITY
KENNETH PUSKO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
\$49.90**

**PUBLIC NOTICE
RAHWAY HOUSING AUTHORITY
"REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS"**

The Housing Authority of the City of Rahway is soliciting proposals for "Legal Services" for the period July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2001.

accounts from be set as the Fee Accountant who shall perform services for the Housing Authority's books and records on a monthly basis for the period commencing immediately, until further notice. All services must be provided in accordance with the general rules, orders, directives and regulations promulgated by the United States Department of Justice, Office of Management and Enterprise Services, Office of Acquisition and Development, (including the HUD Acquisition Development, Financial Management Handbook, HUD Handbook, and the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Contract) provided that such compliance is in the best interests of the Authority and is required by law.

The scope of the Fee Accountant being requested will include, but not be limited to, 150 units of Public Housing, 300 units of Section 8 Housing Vouchers, (including 25 Family Self-Sufficiency Vouchers), Comprehensive Grant Program, and Housing Court Program for the program, and the RFP.

The RFP will be obtained at the Administration Office, 20 Burns Lane, Woodbridge, NJ 07095. **SEALED PROPOSALS** in response to this RFP (original and two copies) are due no later than 12:00 PM on Tuesday, April 25, 2000 and should be addressed as follows:

PROPOSAL - FEE ACCOUNTANT
Dorothy Dandorff, Assistant Executive Director
Housing Authority of the Township of Woodbridge
20 Burns Lane
Woodbridge, NJ 07095

The Woodbridge Housing Authority reserves the right to reject any and all proposals.

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF WOODBRIDGE
LEGAL SERVICES**

The Housing Authority of the Township of Woodbridge, New Jersey is seeking proposals from attorneys or law firms to serve as the Authority's General Legal Counsel for the period July 1, 2000 and terminating May 31, 2001. Proposals will be ranked using a competitive pre-qualification letter system with competing letter five weights.

Attorneys submitting proposals to the RFP must not be obligated, suspended or otherwise prohibited from practicing law by any Federal, State or Local Agency.

The RFP may be obtained at the Administration Office, 20 Burns Lane, Woodbridge, NJ for a \$15 non-refundable fee by certified check or money order only. **SEALED PROPOSALS** in response to this RFP (original and two copies) are due no later than 11:00 AM on April 25, 2000 and should be addressed as follows:

PROPOSAL - LEGAL SERVICES
Dorothy Dandorff, Assistant Executive Director
Housing Authority of the Township of Woodbridge
20 Burns Lane
Woodbridge, NJ 07095

The Woodbridge Housing Authority reserves the right to reject any and all proposals.

**NEW JERSEY TRANSIT
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The New Jersey Transit Corporation (NJ TRANSIT) is conducting public hearings in order to gather information and receive comments from interested parties regarding the proposed program for the New Jersey Transit Corporation's Disabled Resident Transportation Assistance Act (SDORTAP). A hearing will be held in each geographic region in accordance with Section 5 of P.L. 1984 of 57 of SDORTAP. Each hearing will have an afternoon and evening session. The locations are listed below. New Jersey Transit, New Jersey in accordance with the existing session.

The Senior Citizen and Disabled Resident Transportation Assistance Act (SDORTAP) is a program operating under administrative provisions for locally controlled paratransit services for NJ TRANSIT's disabled and senior citizens. The program also funds accessibility improvements to NJ TRANSIT's fixed bus and rail systems. The program provides assistance to the counties and the administration of the statewide program. A forum will also provide an opportunity for interested parties to meet with NJ TRANSIT's representatives and key personnel. All matters to be reviewed at these hearings are available in accessible format or request. Individuals requesting accessible materials should contact Albert R. Heasbrook, III at (973) 492-7002 no later than five (5) business days prior to the hearing or an interpreter. Hearing materials will be available for the public hearing.

The public is invited to these hearings at which time they will have an opportunity to express their views and to state any of these hearings, written comments for the record may be sent to Albert R. Heasbrook, III, New Jersey Transit Corporation, One Penn Plaza, East Newark, New Jersey 07105-2446 or May 31, 2000. Should you need additional information, you may call (973) 492-7022 (1-800-955-6768). In accordance with the above statute, public hearings will be held as follows:

CENTRAL REGION	PLACE	Monmouth County Human Resources Center, 1000 Route 130, 3rd Floor, 08852-1000, Monmouth County, NJ
SOUTHERN REGION	PLACE	Atlantic County Office Building, 1500 Atlantic Avenue, Atlantic City, NJ 08401
NORTHERN REGION	PLACE	NJ Transit Corporation, 2000 Route 130, 3rd Floor, 08852-1000, Monmouth County, NJ
EASTERN REGION	PLACE	Atlantic County Office Building, 1500 Atlantic Avenue, Atlantic City, NJ 08401

One Penn Plaza East, Newark NJ 07105
(973) 491-7000 \$180.11

City Sports

April 12 — April 18, 2000

Ponder This...

By Greg Moore

The buck stops at the NCAA

CBS recently paid the NCAA more than six billion dollars for the rights to air the NCAA tournament for the next several years.

In view of this fact, the executives surely cannot be pleased at the downward ratings trend the tournament has been experiencing.

The Florida-Michigan NCAA final set an all-time low for ratings since the network began airing the tournament in 1963. According to the folks at Nielsen, the championship game averaged a 1.41 rating and a 23 share (which means almost eighty percent of viewers were watching something other than the NCAA tournament).

The disappointing ratings represent an 18 percent decline from the previous record low (which was last year's Duke-Connecticut game) of 17.2.

The disappointing ratings trend also suggest that interest in college basketball is waning as high school stars and underclassmen increasingly give up their eligibility and declare for the NBA draft. It was estimated recently that as many as six McDonald's All-Americans may declare for the NBA draft.

That must be a very frightening prospect for the execs at CBS and the NCAA when you consider that those kids represent six unrealized revenue streams.

Those are six kids who may never wear a college uniform which will be sold in college bookstores. Those are six kids who may not ever get a chance to enhance gate receipts at arenas across the country. Those six kids may never be named the Chevrolet player of the game (which would have entitled the kid's school to additional corporate cash) after nationally televised games.

Those kids may never get an opportunity to earn their coaches hundreds of thousands of dollars in exchange for them wearing name brand sneakers (how silly would it be if Nike paid Phil Jackson millions of dollars a year if Michael Jordan agreed to wear the shoes).

For better or for worse, young athletes are much more sophisticated today than they were 20 years ago when they were just tickled to get a scholarship. Now, young stars have traveled the globe and have hordes of advisors, AAU coaches and aspiring agents in tow before they even set foot on campus.

The NCAA is indeed deluding itself if they expect these kids, when presented with legitimate opportunities to play for pay, to spurn those opportunities for the allure of playing for State U.

Today's players are keen enough to know, that at least in the short term, State U don't pay the bills. And over the long term? Heck, a middle first round pick will make more money in three years than most college graduates could make in two lifetimes.

In short, the NCAA needs to engage in some profit sharing with some of these athletes so that they could avert a situation where more folk are watching Cosby reruns than the Final Four.

As for the ridiculous, on Monday evening CBS color man Billy Packer suggested that Michigan State point guard Mateen Cleaves was more important to that university than Magic Johnson. Packer argued that when you consider that Cleaves stayed all four years (Magic stayed two years) together with all that he contributed off the court (e.g. assisting with college recruiting, community service, etc.), Cleaves was more important to MSU. Listen, I don't care if Cleaves split the atom and discovered a cure for cancer in an MSU laboratory, Magic remains the looming figure in Lansing. Besides, why penalize Magic for doing in two years what it took Cleaves to do in four?

Barnstorming to the top



Back row, The Homestead Grays left to right: Bill Evans, Jay Washington, Ambrose Field, "Smoker" Joe Williams, Josh Gibson, George "Tubby" Scalen, and Oscar Charleston. Front row, left to right: George "Chippy" Britt, Charles "Lefty" Williams, Jud "Boojum" Wilson, "Vicarious" Vic Harris, Ted "Double Duty" Radcliffe, Tex Barnett and Ted Page

Editors note: This is a two-part series on the Negro National League and some of the talented players that emerged from this league to play Major League baseball.

By Chris Rogers
Staff Writer

When you think about it, baseball, America's favorite pastime, saved America from its ugly self. In 1947, Jackie Roosevelt Robinson broke the color line in Major League Baseball. Robinson's time arrived well before the modern day Civil Rights Movement got underway.

Before the era of modern day baseball, there was a time when little Negro boys played baseball with rocks wrapped in socks and with broken off branches from trees — this was about as close as a little black boy came to a field of dreams — back at the turn of the 20th Century.

Then came along Chicago native, Andrew "Rube" Foster,

a terrific black pitcher and a highly successful manager, who began organizing a league Negroes could call their own — the Negro National League.



Jackie Robinson

File Photo

The Homestead Grays, Kansas City Monarchs, where Jackie Robinson got his start, Pittsburgh Crawfords, Newark Eagles and New York Black Yankees set out to play ball. The stars of the Negro Leagues, Josh Gibson, Satchel Paige, "Double Duty" Radcliffe, John

"Buck" O'Neil and Newark natives Ray Dandridge and Monte Irvin, were an elite group in the black community, dining in the finest black-owned restaurants with such entertainers as Lena Horne, Count Basie and Fats Waller, while staying at the finest black-owned hotels.

"We would meet a lot of big-time black musicians," said Pee-Wee Jenkins, who played with the New York Cubans in 1946.

Many of the players and musicians stayed at the Woodside Hotel, at 141st Street and Seventh Ave. in Harlem. Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, who tapped his way to Hollywood, was a part owner of the New York Black Yankees.

The league showcased some of the greatest players of all time and during the off-season, black players would challenge white major leagues. Although records are far from complete, the black teams certainly won a majority of these games.

According to the Ken Burns documentary film, "Baseball," blacks and whites faced each other in 438 exhibitions games, with the Negro League stars winning 309. An unidentified player in the film said, "That's when we played the hardest, so we could let them know and the public know we had the same amount of talent, even better at times."

The Negro National League and a rival black league formed in 1923 and played the first Black World Series in 1924. The league showcased Buck O'Neil, now 86, who played first base for the Monarchs. O'Neil spoke in 1997 at a conference during the 50th anniversary commemoration of Jackie Robinson breaking the color line and said, "Black baseball flourished during the Depression."

As the major leagues struggled, black men were playing a faster, slicker and more daring game that proved very popular with fans.

SportsShorts



GARDEN STATE AMATEUR BASEBALL ORGANIZATION SEEKS TOURNEY PLAYERS

The Garden State Amateur Baseball organization is seeking travel teams for its "4 nationally advertised" tournaments.

"The Lightning Invitational" Memorial Day weekend to be held, May 26-29.

"The Stars and Stripes Classic" Fourth of July weekend, June 30 to July 4.

"The Chuck and Duck Showdown" (wood bats only), August 11-14.

"The Metro Revenge" Labor Day weekend September 4-8.

The tournament will host teams aged 8-14, and ages 16-19 unlimited. Brackets will be held at six separate sites in New Jersey. Fifteen and up teams are given 3 wood bats with entry and they will be all wood bat competition. The cost is \$150.00 for team's 14 and under and \$250 for team's 15 and older (includes 3 wood bats). A \$200 refundable unauthorized forfeit fee is required. For more details e-mail: gsaib2000@aol.com or call (973) 893-6741.

NEW JERSEY SHORECATS 2000 SEASON OPENS

The New Jersey ShoreCats Basketball Team's season 2000 kicks off April 25 in Washington D.C. The team's home opener will be played April 28 at 7 p.m. at the newly renovated Asbury Park Convention Hall. The team will play at home on Sunday, April 30 at 4 p.m. For ShoreCats information call (732) 922-1090. 0

The New Mustangs

Is holding tryouts for competitive spring, summer and fall state and national tournaments. This Club prefers players with college and former professional experience. They need coaches, too. Please call John at (908) 231-6919.

New Milford resident named cross country coach at Bloomfield



BLOOMFIELD—Solomon Kaptum Arap Chebor of New Milford was recently named head cross country coach at Bloomfield College.

Chebor was a member of the Kenyan Olympic team in 1976 and 1980. He finished fifth in the 5,000-meters at Montreal in 1976 and qualified for the 3,000-meter steeplechase at the Moscow Olympics, but did not compete due to the boycott.

In 1974, Chebor competed in the 5,000-meters at the Kenya Commonwealth Games. He is a three-time NCAA champion and a 10-time All

'We are happy to welcome Solomon to Bloomfield College as we prepare to compete in our first season of cross country.'

— Sheila Wooten

Americann selection.

He comes to Bloomfield from Fairleigh Dickinson University, where he was Events Coordinator and Supervisor of Athletic Facilities and Equipment. Prior to that, he served as treasurer for the Kenya Amateur Athletic Association. For four years, Chebor was chief coordinator of the Kabernet Athletic Training Camp in Kenya.

Chebor earned a B.S. in Accounting and Business Education from Fairleigh Dickinson University, where he was named Outstanding Student Athlete. From 1982 to 1983, he served as assistant track and field coach at Fairleigh Dickinson University. In May, he will be inducted into the Fairleigh

Dickinson University Athletic Hall of Fame.

"We are happy to welcome Solomon to Bloomfield College as we prepare to compete in our first season of cross country this fall," said Director of Athletics Sheila Wooten.

Bloomfield College was elected to provisional membership in NCAA Division II in 1998. The college offers intercollegiate athletic teams in men's and women's soccer and basketball, women's softball and volleyball, and men's baseball and cross country as part of the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference, NAIA. Students may also participate in intramural sports programs.



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